

National Park Service



U.S. Department of the Interior
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park



DRAFT **Public Scoping Comment Analysis Report**

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
Georgetown Canal Plan
Environmental Assessment

August 31, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Project Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with Georgetown Heritage, Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), and the District of Columbia Office of Planning, is preparing a Georgetown Canal Plan and a corresponding Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA) to revitalize portions of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal NHP) within the Georgetown neighborhood of the District of Columbia. Georgetown Heritage is the nonprofit organization created by community leaders to form a partnership with the NPS to restore, revitalize, and reimagine NPS's assets in Georgetown.

The Plan/EA proposes enhancements to a mile-long segment of the Canal that passes between Lock One (approximately 28th Street, NW) and the Aqueduct Bridge abutment and pier ruins (approximately 36th Street, NW), as well as a non-contiguous parcel located at the outlet of Rock Creek to the Potomac River, known as the Tide Lock (Figure 1).

The Plan/EA will focus on addressing deferred maintenance issues and related safety and accessibility concerns associated with the towpath; improving connections between Georgetown and the C&O Canal towpath; enhancing visitor experience through increased signage; and optimizing underutilized areas. The Plan/EA will be developed in a manner that addresses the identified needs, while also preserving the historic character, integrity, and cultural significance of the C&O Canal NHP and the Georgetown Historic District (DC Landmark, National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmark).

The Georgetown Canal Plan is needed to provide a coordinated approach to address the following concerns:

- Portions of the towpath are uneven, narrow, and poorly lit, creating potential safety hazards;
- Visitors with limited mobility can only access the towpath from Grace Street, NW (south of the Canal). All other access points are not compliant with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS);
- Many access points to the towpath are not readily visible or unknown due to lack of signage;
- The park desires to expand opportunities for interpretation, education, and cultural programming;
- The park has limited amenities and facilities for visitor comfort such as seating, drinking fountains, and rest rooms; and
- Several plazas along the Canal are underutilized and could be developed to provide additional recreational activities.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Plan/EA will identify alternatives and assess the potential impacts of the proposed project. Concurrent to the NEPA process, NPS will work with the DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA) consultation process. The purpose of the Section 106 consultation process is to identify historic properties that could be affected by the Plan/EA; assess adverse effects on those

properties; and develop ways to resolve those effects through appropriate avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.



FIGURE 1: PROJECT AREA LOCATION MAP

Initial Scoping Activities

Public involvement and participation is an essential element of the NEPA process, engaging citizens in decision-making through planning and development. Public outreach is also a required action under Section 106 of the NHPA. As a part of the NEPA process, and to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, the NPS involved the public in project planning by holding a formal public scoping period from May 31, 2017 through July 14, 2017. Agencies, stakeholders, and the public were invited to submit comments on the project during this time period.

Public Scoping and Agency Coordination

On May 31, 2017, the NPS distributed a public scoping letter to those individuals and groups on the stakeholder mailing database who were identified as having a potential interest in the project. Also on May 31, 2017, NPS posted a Public Scoping Announcement to its Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The scoping letters and announcement provided project details, encouraged participation in the scoping process, and provided notice of the public scoping meeting to be held June 14, 2017. Additionally, Georgetown Heritage

invited members of the community to the public meeting via email and post card. Agencies, stakeholders, and the public were encouraged to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns on the project electronically through PEPC or by mailing comments to the C&O Canal NHP Headquarters.

During the scoping period, four (4) correspondences were received from various agencies who received the scoping letter. Three (3) correspondences were received from federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). One (1) correspondence was received from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) of the Delaware Nation. A summary of agency comments received during the scoping period is provided later in this report.

Agency Meetings

On May 31, 2017, the NPS held a preliminary informational meeting at the Georgetown BID offices with representatives from NCPC, the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the DC SHPO. The architectural firm James Corner Field Operations (JCFO), who has been hired to design the Georgetown Canal Plan, gave a brief presentation of the site analysis they prepared which outlined the general conditions of the Canal, including vegetation, infrastructure, character zones, and building materials; the Canal's development and historical role; and its local and regional importance as an urban park and link to many other resources within Washington, DC.

After the presentation, representatives from the agencies were asked to provide informal, preliminary feedback on the proposed project. Representatives from the agencies expressed support for the project but also cautioned against making too many modern upgrades. The agencies stressed the need to retain the historic character of the Canal and avoid superfluous vegetation plantings and "over-prettying" the Canal. However, they also suggested that any necessary improvements, such as accessibility upgrades, should not attempt to mimic the historic infrastructure of the Canal. Instead, they should be designed as modern elements that are distinct from the surrounding environment. The agencies also expressed concern that the plan may lead to over-crowding of the park or that towpath improvements may encourage too many bike commuters. A full summary from this meeting can be found in Appendix C.

Public Meeting and Workshop

A public scoping meeting and workshop was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, from 6:00-8:00pm at Canal Overlook at Georgetown Park (next to Dean & Deluca, 3276 M Street, NW) in Washington, DC. The public scoping meeting was held to give the public the opportunity to learn about the proposed project; identify any areas of concerns and opportunities regarding the proposed project; provide the public with an opportunity to share knowledge of important environmental and cultural issues that should be considered during the planning process; and solicit public feedback to inform the development of project alternatives. The format of the meeting was as follows:

6:00 – 6:15pm: Welcome, Introductions, Project Overview and NEPA/Section 106 Summary

6:15 – 6:50pm: Site Assessment Presentation and Q&A Session

6:50 – 7:35pm: Breakout Group Activities and Reporting

7:35pm: Formal Meeting Wrap up

8:00pm: Meeting Ends

As meeting attendees entered the meeting, they were provided a brief overview of the meeting format as they signed-in and were assigned a table number at which to sit. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, attendees were encouraged to walk around and observe several posters that were placed around the meeting space to inform the public of the purpose and need for the project; the extent of the project area; preliminarily identified historic resources in the vicinity of the project area; and an outline of the NEPA and Section 106 processes. Team members from NPS, Georgetown Heritage, and consultant staff were on hand to engage in conversation with members of the public and answer questions. At 6:00pm attendees were asked to find their assigned tables and the meeting began shortly thereafter.

NPS began the meeting with introductions of project partners; a brief history and description of the Canal and NHP; and a brief overview of the project. NPS also outlined the NEPA and Section 106 processes and how they relate to the proposed project. Georgetown Heritage also gave a brief explanation of their role in the project and introduced the architectural firm, JCFO, who has been hired to design the Georgetown Canal Plan. Next, James Corner gave a presentation of the site assessment that his firm prepared which outlined the general conditions of the Canal, including, vegetation, infrastructure, character zones, and building materials; the Canal's development and historical role; and its local and regional importance as an urban park and link to many other resources within Washington, DC. After the presentation concluded, attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed project and project team members provided answers to the best of their ability. Next, attendees were asked to participate in an activity in order to gather information about how they currently use the park and ways they might like to use the park in the future. Team members were present at each table to facilitate and direct the conversation, and to take notes based on input from participants. After the breakout sessions concluded, Georgetown Heritage provided a wrap-up of the meeting describing the next steps in the planning process and encouraging attendees to provide comments either electronically through PEPC or on comment cards provided at the registration table. Attendees were also informed of two informational handouts available at their tables: one developed by Georgetown Heritage describing the project and planning process; and one developed by NPS outlining the NEPA and Section 106 processes. As the meeting concluded, attendees were encouraged to revisit the posters and discuss the project with team members.

Approximately 200 individuals attended the public meeting including project team members, and NPS staff. Of those, two (2) individuals identified themselves as representing DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC); two (2) individuals identified themselves as representing the American Society of Landscape Architects; and one (1) individual identified themselves as representing the NPS from Rock Creek Park. Sign-in sheets and an RSVP list for the public meeting are provided in Appendix B. A total of two (2) comment forms were submitted at the meeting and 13 questions were received on index cards during the Q&A portion of the meeting.

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

NPS and Georgetown Heritage have placed a high priority on stakeholder engagement and public outreach for this project. Georgetown Heritage intends to solicit public input throughout the entire process from preliminary plan development through design and implementation. As such, NPS and Georgetown Heritage held seven small

“focus group” meetings with community members that live and work adjacent to the Canal; and other community groups with an interest in the project. Table 1 below summarizes the dates and attendees of each of the meetings. Representatives from Georgetown Heritage, Georgetown BID, and NPS attended all meetings. Each meeting included a brief project overview and presentation of the site analysis prepared by JCFO. Following the presentation, attendees were encouraged to ask questions about the project; discuss ideas and suggestions for the project; and express concerns related to the project.

TABLE 1: STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH MEETINGS

Meeting Date	Stakeholder Group	Number of Attendees
June 6, 2017 (9:00am)	Adjacent Business Owners	4
June 6, 2017 (3:00pm)	Adjacent Business Owners	6
June 6, 2017	Adjacent Residents	18
June 8, 2017	Adjacent Residents	10
June 17, 2017	Adjacent Residents (Flour Mill Condominium Only)	16
July 10, 2017	Adjacent Business Owners	7
July 12, 2017	Adjacent Business Owners	3
July 13, 2017	Georgetown University Steering Committee	Unknown

On June 6, 2017, NPS and Georgetown Heritage held two meetings with representatives from canal-adjacent business owners, one at 9:00am and one at 3:00pm. Four (4) individuals attended the 9:00am meeting and represented the Rosewood Hotel, Washington DC; the Four Seasons DC; 3073 Canal Street, LLC; and Jamestown Urban Management, Georgetown Park. Six (6) individuals attended the 3:00pm meetings and represented the Latham Hotel; Snyder Properties, the owners of the Patagonia building; The Collective/Grace Street Coffee; the owner of several properties along the Canal including Canal Square and Sea Catch Restaurant; and several property managers including the building manager of the Flour Mill Building and M.C. Dunn, the EastBanc property manager. In addition, a canal-adjacent resident meeting was held on June 6, 2017. Eighteen (18) individuals attended this meeting from the following residences: 1015 33rd Street; 3303 Water Street; 1001 Papermill Court; 3150 South Street; 1015 33rd Street; 1011 Papermill Court; Canal House Condominiums; Georgetown Park Condominiums; and the Flour Mill Condominiums.

On June 8, 2017, Georgetown Heritage and NPS held a meeting with canal-adjacent residents. Ten (10) individuals attended this meeting from the following residents: 3065-67 Canal Towpath; 1058 30th Street; 1059, 1061, 1066, and 1068 Thomas Jefferson Street; 1062 30th Street; and 3075 Canal Street. On June 17, 2017, Georgetown Heritage and NPS held a meeting with residents from the Flour Mill Condominium which is located adjacent to the Canal on Fishmarket Square. Sixteen individuals (16) from the Flour Mill Condominium attended this meeting.

On July 10, 2017, Georgetown Heritage and NPS held a meeting with additional representatives from canal-adjacent business owners. Seven (7) individuals attended this meeting representing Potomac Investment, EastBanc, Inc., and the Libra Group. On July 12, 2017, Georgetown Heritage and NPS held a final meeting with canal-adjacent business owners. Three (3) individuals attended this meeting representing Bernstein Management, Walter E. Lynch, LLC, and the Foundry Building.

On July 9, 2017, the Georgetown University Steering Committee requested the Georgetown Heritage give a brief presentation and overview of the project. Attendees expressed support and enthusiasm for the project.

Nature of Comments Received during Public Scoping

Sixty-three (63) pieces of correspondence from four states and the District of Columbia were received during the public scoping period. Individuals living within the vicinity of the project area (Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia) submitted 60 (approximately 93.8 %) of those correspondence pieces.

Four (4) federal government agencies provided comments on the project.

Correspondence from area residents and visitors made up the balance of comments received. Comments received during the public scoping period were generally in support of the proposed project. The majority of comments received either suggested specific activities or attractions the commenter would like to see in the park; or expressed concern from area residents and business owners that aspects of the plan would draw too many visitors, leading to excessive amounts of noise, light, trash, and congestion. Many commenters expressed a desire to retain the historic character of the park and hoped that the park would not be turned into a modern attraction. Commenters also requested the proposed project address the lack of public amenities within the park and the difficulty many have accessing the park. A comprehensive list of comments received during the scoping period can be found in Appendix A.

Other than suggestions for activities or attractions to add to the park as part of the propose project, comments received during the scoping period generally did not provide additional information on existing conditions or resources that would assist with better understanding the affected environment or potential project impacts. It is important to note that all comments, regardless of their topic, were carefully read and analyzed and are presented in this report. NPS, Georgetown Heritage, Georgetown BID, and the DC Office of Planning are committed to continuing extensive public outreach and engagement throughout the remainder of the planning process.

Summary of Agency Comments

A total of four (4) correspondences were received from federal agencies during the scoping period. One (1) letter each was received from NCPC, EPA and USACE. Each correspondence gave recommendations on topics that each agency would like to see addressed in the EA. Special emphasis was placed on water resources, including stormwater management and wetlands; traffic and transportation; socioeconomics; environmental justice; cultural resources; visual resources; air quality; floodplains; and cumulative impacts from the project.

One (1) correspondence was received via email from the Director of Cultural Resources of the Delaware Nation. The Delaware Nation stated in their email to NPS that the project would not impact cultural or religious sites. They requested to be a formal consulting party under Section 106 and if any discoveries arise they should be contacted immediately.

Summary of Input Received at Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

Meeting attendees at the stakeholder engagement meetings were asked to provide ideas and share their concerns about the proposed project. They were also given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed project to NPS and Georgetown Heritage. During the meetings, residents and business owners asked questions about the project schedule; the timeline of current Canal repairs; the boundary survey; current design ideas; logistics of mules returning to the Canal; and the status of the West Heating Plant pedestrian bridge. Ideas presented during these meetings included ways to maintain the serenity of the Canal; enhance existing qualities; add art installations; bring back the Canal boat; activate Georgetown at night; provide information about the Canal to area hotels; and increasing Canal activity at night in order to make it safer. Concerns expressed during the meetings included accessibility, safety, water quality, crowd management, graffiti, live and dead rats, tripping on bricks, trash, loitering, drug use, vagrancy, parking, congestion, slow bikes on towpath, plans for Fishmarket Square, and property values. Meeting summaries from each stakeholder engagement meeting can be found in Appendix D.

The Comment Analysis Process

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and combine similar public comments into a format that can be used by decision makers and the project team responsible for the C&O Canal NHP Georgetown Canal Plan/EA. In the scoping phase, comment analysis helps the project team to refine the topics and issues to be evaluated and considered in the EA, in accordance with regulations implementing NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

As the NEPA process continues, comment analysis will help the project team for the C&O Canal NHP Georgetown Canal Plan/EA organize and clarify technical information, refine the scope of the EA, define alternatives and issues to be addressed, and effectively evaluate potential impacts associated with the alternatives. The comment analysis process includes five main components:

- developing a coding structure to organize comments by topics
- employing a comment database for comment management
- reading and coding public comments
- interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes
- preparing a comment summary

A coding structure was developed to help sort comments into logical groups by topic and issue. The coding structure was derived from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal NPS scoping and from comments received from members of the public. The coding structure was designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The PEPC database was used to manage and organize the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic or issue. Outputs from the database, which are provided as tables in the Content Analysis Report below, include tallies of the total number of pieces of correspondence and comments received, sorting and reporting of comments by a particular topic or issue, and demographic information about the sources of the comments. Analysis of the public comments in PEPC involves assigning the codes to statements made by the public in their letters, emails, web forms, and comments provided at the public meetings. All comments received during the public scoping comment period were read and analyzed. Although the comment analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, comment analysis is not a vote-counting process and this report is not intended as a statistical analysis. This report is intended to be a summary of the different concerns, issues, and opinions raised by the comments received. The emphasis is on content of the comments, rather than the number of times a particular comment was received.

Definition of Terms

Primary terms used in the document are defined below:

Correspondence: A correspondence is the entire document received from the public – including individuals, organizations, government officials, and agency representatives. It can be in the form of a letter, comment card, or PEPC website comment form. Each piece of correspondence is assigned a unique identification number in the PEPC system.

Comment: A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. It could include such information as an expression of support or opposition to a proposed activity, additional data regarding the existing condition, an opinion questioning a matter of policy, or an opinion regarding the adequacy of an analysis.

Code: A grouping centered on a common topic or subject matter with which the public is concerned. The codes were developed during the scoping process and are used to track major subjects throughout the NEPA process.

Concern: Concerns are subdivisions of codes. Each code was further separated into several concern statements to provide a better focus on the content of comments.

Guide to This Document

This report is organized as follows:

Content Analysis Report – This is the basic report produced from PEPC that provides information on the numbers and types of comments received, organized by code. The first section of the report provides a summary of the number of comments that were coded under each topic. The second section provides general demographic information, such as the states where commenters live, the number of letters received from different categories of organizations, etc.

Public Comment Summary – This report summarizes the substantive comments received during public scoping and organizes them by comment code

Concern Statement by Comment Code: Comments are summarized by concern statements for each comment code. This report shows each comment code, its corresponding concern statement, and a representative quote.

Correspondences Submitted – This is a complete listing of all correspondences submitted.

SCOPING SUMMARY (CONTENT ANALYSIS REPORT)

TABLE 2: COMMENT DISTRIBUTION BY CODE

Code	Description	Total
AL1000	Alternatives: Alternative Ideas	22
AL2000	Alternatives: Support for Minor Improvements Only	11
AL3000	Alternatives: Amenities	6
AL4000	Alternatives: Support for Activating Underutilized Areas Along Canal	4
GC1000	General Comments: General Support for the Project	7
GC1000	General Comments: Miscellaneous Questions and Comments	4
HP1000	Historic Preservation: Retain Historic Natural of Canal	15
NE1000	NEPA/Section 106: Compliance Considerations/EA Topics	9
PO1000	Park Operations: Maintenance Plan Needed for Park	5
SS1000	Safety and Security: Loitering Concerns	4
SS2000	Safety and Security: Other Safety Concerns	9
VU/VE1000	Visitor Use and Experience: Accessibility	14
VU/VE2000	Visitor Use and Experience: Lighting	7
VU/VE3000	Visitor Use and Experience: Do Not Support Non-motorized vessels in Canal	2
VU/VE4000	Visitor Use and Experience: Towpath Improvements	5
VU/VE5000	Visitor Use and Experience: Water in Canal	8
VU/VE6000	Visitor Use and Experience: Connectivity with the Rest of the NHP and Neighborhood	3
VU/VE7000	Visitor Use and Experience: Concerns with Attracting Too Many Visitors to Park	5
VU/VE8000	Visitor Use and Experience: Resident Concerns	9
VU/VE9000	Visitor Use and Experience: Retain Oasis-like Feel of Park	9
VU/VE1100	Visitor Use and Experience: Vandalism	4
WV1000	Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve/Increase Vegetation and Wildlife Along Canal	10
WV2000	Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve Existing Green Spaces	2

TABLE 3: CORRESPONDENCE SIGNATURE COUNT BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

Organization Type	Number of Correspondence Signatures
Unaffiliated Individual	44
Federal Agency	4
Local Organizations*	13
Business	2
TOTAL	63

*These individuals are listed in PEPC as Unaffiliated but indicated elsewhere that they represented a local organization

TABLE 4: CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED BY AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS

Organization Type	Organization Name	Number of Correspondence Signatures
Federal Agency		
	EPA Region III	1
	NCPC	1
	USACE	1
	Delaware Nation	1
Local Organizations		
	Advisory Neighborhood Commission	2
	Citizens Association of Georgetown	1
	C&O Canal Association	3
	C&O Canal Trust	1
	Flour Mill Condominium	4
	Georgetown BID	1
	Georgetown Heritage	1
Businesses		
	Casey Trees	1
	Oliver Carr Company	1
TOTAL		19

TABLE 5: CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION BY CORRESPONDENCE TYPE

Type	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
PEPC	60	95.2%
Email	1	1.6%
Letter	2	3.2%
TOTAL	63	

TABLE 6: CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION BY STATE

State	Number of Correspondences	Percentage
DC	40	63.5%
Unknown	12	19.0%
MD	7	11.1%
PA	2	3.2%
VA	1	1.6%
OK	1	1.6%
TOTAL	63	

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Report - Substantive Issues Report

AL1000 Alternatives: Alternative Ideas (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648399 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Art should be added throughout the park.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648400 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Since the paths are so narrow and probably can't be widened very much, perhaps elevated walkways could be added along walls and buildings so that more people can enjoy the canal.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 648403 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would like this study to explore whether swimming could be allowed in the canal with the proper management practices. The entire waterway is relatively shallow, and since its flows are managed, a slightly higher flow could improve the water quality conditions to meet EPA standards for primary contact. Additionally, swimming here would be significantly safer than any of our local rivers due to the ability to manage small swimming area, or create a virtual lane for longer-distance openwater swimming in the mornings and evenings when canal boat and kayak traffic will be light. This is the rare waterway which has the potential to be managed for public swimming access, and the idea should at least get a thorough vetting to determine what steps might be required to reach this outcome.

Organization:

Commenter: Will Handsfield **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 648404 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Additionally, the potential for managed winter ice-skating is very high. A small area of 100 yards could host removable mechanical chilling equipment that would freeze the surface into a reliable skating environment. This would provide amazing and safe public access to a winter activity that is popular, but currently ad hoc whenever conditions align. The Rideau Canal in Ottawa is a great precedent example of what a predictable, managed skateway can provide in community benefits and tourism. Please explore this idea and determine preliminary feasibility as part of this project.

Organization:

Commenter: Will Handsfield **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 648407 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: There is no dogs park down M street , it would be fantastic to incorporate some dog park to the project . Mules camp, lock number 2 area, any other place by the aqueduct ?????

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 648415 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: It would be wonderful to bring back barge trips on the canal through Georgetown, even boat cruises up to Great Falls someday!

Organization:

Commenter: Clark Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 648420 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I believe that temporary structures along the lower first mile of the C&O Canal would go a long way to encourage more visitorship and participation by both residents and visitors

Organization:

Commenter: William Brown **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 648421 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I use this as an example of how Georgetown Heritage and other stakeholders could place (install on a temporary basis) a series of floating docks and ramps along the canal between Lock 4 and the Aqueduct Bridge. These could be placed immediately adjacent to Lock 4, near the Fish Market (Potomac Avenue/Mills), the wooden retaining wall just down-stream from 34th Street and finally at or near the Aqueduct Bridge. These structures would not permanently impact the historic nature of the canal and could be removed off-season or permanently should they be underutilized. I always thought the section of the canal between Tide Lock and 30th Street was kind of neglected but don't have any real insight or suggestions as to how this area might be improved

Organization:

Commenter: William Brown **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 648432 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: "I would highly recommend an in person visit to The RiverWalk in San Antonio, Texas. Full of restaurants and entertainment. <https://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/> "

Organization:

Commenter: Nilsa Diaz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 648437 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The two ends of this section, Tidelock and the Alexandria Aqueduct, merit special attention as potential gathering places with great views.

Organization:

Commenter: Carrie Johnson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 648441 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I heard you wanted to fill the canal up with wildflowers until you can fill it back up, great idea!

Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee

Commenter: Ross N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648451 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: One exception I would make is the reintroduction of the barge, which offers, in a controlled setting, educational opportunities regarding the history of the Canal and of Georgetown. Littering, noise and activities that degrade the Canal can be monitored during barge excursions. Of course it would be expected that evidence of mule traffic would be carefully controlled.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 648464 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The American Geosciences Institute would be happy to talk about helping and collaborating if a geopark is still of interest.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 648466 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Can restaurants open on the canal with an outdoor patio section?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 648479 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The base for the canal barge should also offer a visitor's center- - a site for talks, visual displays about the canal, meetings for canal friends, etc. Include good rest rooms, refreshments and a well run store (books, historical items (barge models, stuffed mules, hats, etc.)

Organization:

Commenter: J E Murdock III **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648505 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: And finally, they would like to see a greater emphasis placed on placemaking for people to use and enjoy the canal from both the NPS land and adjacent properties. This includes balancing the canal's passive spaces with soft and programmed activation (everything from chess tables to concerts) as well as restaurants, bars and commercial spaces that overlook or spill out onto the adjacent NPS property.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648506 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: They support increased recreational activity with things like the proposed boat launch dock for kayaks and canoes at 34th Street.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648507 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: They support new educational and interpretive signage and programming.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648513 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: At the other end of the Georgetown mile is one of the few spots that might benefit from a modest construction project, the area between the towpath and the upper surface of the Alexandria Aqueduct. A viewing platform there could perhaps be combined with fencing, allowing people to enjoy the vista while keeping them off the aqueduct itself. Some of the vegetation at the edge of this area might be replaced with low-growing shrubs that would not obstruct views of the river.

Organization:

Committer: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648514 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Central to this will naturally be the reopened (and perhaps renovated) Visitor Center and rides in the replica boat.

Organization:

Committer: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648515 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: it's important to strictly limit the size and height of any boat rental facility that might be established on the shoreline between the aqueduct and the Washington Canoe Club.

Organization:

Committer: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648516 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The park can also host art exhibits, lectures and other events that do not relate directly to the canal itself.

Organization:

Committer: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 648525 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: It would be great to see the mule drawn canal boat return and see a focus on family, history and learning.

Organization:

Committer: Margaret Hardon **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 648530 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: It would be great to see expanded green space, permeable landscaping and "bump-out" areas for community activities like exercise classes or art installations.

Organization:

Commenter: Alice Carter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648546 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: A high priority for me is the return of the boat AND the mules.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648547 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Entertainment and dining venues should be well done and few. Fun special events - fishing contests, kayak parades, hockey games and such would be options to consider.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 52 **Comment Id:** 648572 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: If the Park Service expands its Canal Classrooms program into the District of Columbia, the Canal Trust will have a keen interest in seeing Georgetown as a future site for the initiative. This will provide a great opportunity to share the newly revitalized section of the park not only with children who attend schools in the immediate vicinity, but also with all children throughout the District, especially those from Title 1 schools with a high number of students from low income households.

Organization: C&O Canal Trust

Commenter: Robin Zanotti **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 648573 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I am interested in the possible inclusion of commercial ventures and in how they would blend successfully with the historic and natural areas of Georgetown.

Organization: Citizens Association of Georgetown

Commenter: Leslie Maysak **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 648576 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I would love to see some sort of sustainable feature, whether it be energy produced by turbines from the outflow of water or a combination of aquatic life that helps keep the Potomac clean.

Organization:

Commenter: Jacob Schmidt **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 648577 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I also encourage the developers to implement as much installation art that balances historic tributes to contemporary art. This would be well to satisfy many of the opposing citizens in GT.

Organization:

Commenter: Jacob Schmidt **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 55 **Comment Id:** 648578 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: This proposal brings a "Missouri Trout Park" to Georgetown. There's some technology and planning involved but I've had an "Urban Trout" design for many years hence I've figured out how to accomplish all. Research "Missouri Trout Parks" and if you like what you find then contact me through Miriam's and we'll get to work. Note that I'll need a Georgetown efficiency for \$350/mo to work on this project.

Organization:

Commenter: James E **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648602 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: A design that better defines what the public areas are as opposed to the private spaces would be welcomed. Trees, plants, fountains and perhaps having a large sculpture (something along the line what one sees in cities like Chicago) are welcome while late night loitering is not.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648604 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: On a more positive note, perhaps one way to add a "wow" factor to the entire project would be with imaginative lighting. Putting in lighting instruments that could bathe the dramatic stone walls, putting lighting under the bridges, lighting that highlights the vegetation, underwater lighting (as long as it wasn't a problem for fish, turtles, etc.), perhaps a light sculpture that could be a landmark for a certain part of the 1-mile route. One wouldn't want it to look like a carnival, but there must be hundreds of ways it could be done tastefully.

LED lights would make it efficient and placement would be important, not only for the effect one was after but to keep vandalism to a minimum, as the individual instruments would most likely be a target.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648633 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: For the Tidlock/Milepost 0 area, for example, one or two new signs could help people find the site from K Street. The existing wayside display should be refurbished, and a quick response "QR" code added to it, allowing visitors to receive further interpretation via smart phone. That's about all that's needed, in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL2000 Alternatives: Minor Improvements Only (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 648417 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Any plan for the future of the canal in Georgetown should recognize that historic preservation must be an overriding consideration. The project brochure and the presentation at the scoping meeting show sensitivity to the unique qualities of the location; however, plans for development of "plazas" along and within the borders of the canal park are not clearly defined. Revitalization of the neighborhood is a worthwhile objective, but commercialization or overcrowding of the park must be strictly avoided. We urge that all options for enhancement are fully protective of the longstanding charm and historical integrity of the canal and its towpath, associated structures and open spaces.

Organization: C&O Canal Association

Commenter: William Holdsworth **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 648428 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Limit the scope of the recreational use of the area. (Recognize the space limitations - - as well as the historic factors; consider requesting bikers to walk bikes or use another route; provide safe lock up areas for bikes; direct visitors to the nearby (larger area) Georgetown Waterfront Park for recreational opportunities.)

Organization:

Commenter: Sally C Strain **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 648481 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: With a constrained budget, adding new things (sculpture, athletic specific facilities, etc.) should be a low priority. Enhancing what is presently there should be a priority.

Organization:

Commenter: J E Murdock III **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648493 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: While it would be great to provide better maintenance and upkeep of the Canal and its towpath, please remember that this is a residential neighborhood. Residents do not want to walk out of their homes into a giant theme park

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648517 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I hope that enhancements will be done with a light touch and will avoid creating the feel of a programmed experience.

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648518 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I hope, however, that these activities will be limited in scale - the nearby Georgetown Waterfront Park offers much more space for events for sizable audiences

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648519 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: its call for development of certain "plazas" raises concern. Please go easy! The identity of this National Historical Park is tied to a 19th Century mode of transportation that persisted into the 20th. The keynote must be continuity rather than transformation.

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 648528 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would discourage paving the towpath or installing overhead lighting that would destroy the character of the canal and towpath.]

Organization:

Commenter: Margaret Hardon **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648542 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Any actual changes to parkland must be necessary and not a reflection of funders' wants and needs

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648544 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: To ensure this mile-long stretch of the C&O Canal NHP does not become swallowed up as just another part of Georgetown's entertainment district, balance and sensitivity must be carefully observed and implemented.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648545 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Whatever new cultural programming is proposed, the potential to completely obscure the park's identity within Georgetown's geographic area exists.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 56 **Comment Id:** 648579 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Enhance the canal's heritage, but don't turn it into an amusement park.

Organization:

Commenter: S Green **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 57 **Comment Id:** 648582 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Uneven surfaces and dim areas should not be replaced by hard pavement and wasteful use of light. Light fixtures should not send light upwards where it serves no purpose and adds to light pollution.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 57 **Comment Id:** 648583 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Similarly, I hope that the new signage will fit in with the scenery.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 58 **Comment Id:** 648585 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: It is not necessary to build a visitor's center in Georgetown for the C&O Canal. Please emphasize our greenery and use the money you have available not for more construction but for maintenance of greenery. No need for an additional building to house a visitor's center.

Organization:

Commenter: Shelley R Ross-Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648592 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: This heritage is largely dependent on NPS exercising its duty to protect the area, and not being too swayed by plans that may seem attractive, yet threaten to undermine the Park's historical character. For example, in presentations to the community and in press comments, advocates for the revitalization project derive inspiration from sites having little to do in character with a National Historical Park. One of these, New York's High Line, barely alludes to its site's past, while high-end residences, shops, and eateries have overtaken the former industrial feel along another, London's Regent's Canal. These and the other references now cited for the C&O are out-of-step with the Park's founding and operation.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648593 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Georgetown Heritage, the driving force in support of the Canal Plan, takes this a step further, though, calling, on its web site, for, "transformative designs for some of the under-used spaces along the canal." It is vital for NPS to contain overenthusiastic calls for such "transformations," ensuring that potential uses are not mere extensions of the commerce and entertainments already found in close proximity to the Canal. The creation of permanent retail and performing arts space, out-of-scale play equipment, lighting and seating in cutting-edge designs, and even over-reliance on integrated landscaping "all very nice things on their own-might unduly interrupt the flow of the NHP, the safeguarding of which, again, should be top priority.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL3000 Alternatives: Amenities (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648396 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: More seating needs to be added throughout the park.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 648416 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The carefully planned addition of amenities such as drinking fountains and rest rooms would also be very welcome.

Organization: C&O Canal Association

Commenter: William Holdsworth **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648497 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: A small point but there should also be sufficient, smartly-designed trash receptacles along the canal path to ensure that trash does not end up in the canal or along the towpath, even if inadvertently.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 648526 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Designs of public seating, location of public restrooms, location of trash receptacles should consider how these facilities will be maintained and how they will impact neighbors and visitors in such a small space

Organization:

Commenter: Margaret Hardon **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648561 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: provide for programming that attracts and serves diverse audiences; and include amenities to make visitors comfortable and safe.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648609 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Having plenty of rodent proof trashcans must certainly be on a list of improvement all along the canal and having a service to come by and empty them is just as important.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL4000 Alternative: Support for activating underutilized areas along canal (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648402 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Open spaces need to be activated by adding seating, cafes, activities, etc.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 648418 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Certain underused parts of the canal park, such as the Mile Zero/Tidelock area, deserve increased attention and visitation.

Organization: C&O Canal Association

Commenter: William Holdsworth **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 648440 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: One neighbor had mentioned the idea of using what I think is being called the Fish Market (up Potomac St behind Dean & Deluca) as a wedding venue. My only concern of that being an event space is making sure there's still room for foot traffic along the canal. I would want that area continually blocked off on weekends for private events. Now, if you want to turn that space into a market or more importantly, a beer garden, I think we can come to a compromise.

Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee

Commenter: Ross N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 648480 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: IF there is a point along this segment where people could sit and list to music from a specially created concert barge floating in the canal, that would be special.

Organization:

Commenter: J E Murdock III **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

GC1000 General Comment: General Support for Project (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 648425 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I am in favor of the beautification project on the Georgetown segment of the C&O Canal.

Organization:

Commenter: Louise Sagalyn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648635 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Having attended several public meetings regarding this project, I am intrigued and excited with some of the restoration plans that have been suggested,

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648597 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: As a resident of The Flour Mill Condominium at 1015 33rd Street NW, I am intrigued, excited as well as concerned over what is to come with the upcoming rejuvenation of the C&O Canal. It has a unique presence in this city and is rich in history and natural beauty and given its current condition, it certainly needs to be cared for.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648587 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I and many of my neighbors are eager to see restoration of the Park in Georgetown, and hopefully beyond.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 648575 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I love this idea and encourage the developers to think sustainable while implementing choice comfortable and well designed spaces to draw people in and keeping people around the Canal.

Organization:

Commenter: Jacob Schmidt **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 648574 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I believe the canal and surrounding areas are an underused and valuable resource and hope that a thoughtful and sensitive rehabilitation project could make the canal a space where many more residents and visitors could enjoy its unique qualities.

Organization: Citizens Association of Georgetown

Commenter: Leslie Maysak **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 648433 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I applaud the efforts of the Park Service and concerned Georgetown residents to revitalize the C&O Canal which has fallen into disrepair in recent years.

Organization:

Commenter: T X T **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 648426 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I am in full support of this exciting, important effort to redesign and invigorate the Washington DC C&O Canal

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

GC2000 General Comment: Miscellaneous Questions and Comments (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648457 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The primary question to be answered is...What will be the measure of success of this project?

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648567 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: To ensure that the park is underpinned by sustainable financial and social investments. The Canal Plan should provide for creative approaches to park funding from public and private sectors; engage the social capital of the DC Community in an active community of volunteer stewardship for the park; and ensure all public and private monies are effectively and efficiently allocated and spent in the creation and maintenance of the park.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 648476 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Par. 2: The B&O RR did not purchase the canal in 1890. The B&O did pay \$100,000 for some strips of land through the Narrows between Pt. of Rocks and Harpers Ferry and in Georgetown when the canal was sold to the US Government. Please contact me if you want the precise amount (down to the penny) that the B&O eventually received (from the newly appointed receivers who sold the canal in 1938) for their Canal Company bonds. The canal was operated by trustees for the bond holders of 1844 and 1878. The C&O Canal Co. remained a legal entity but a newly formed company, the Chesapeake & Ohio Transportation Co. of Washington County (1896), and, the Canal Towage Co. (1903) were contracted with to do some maintenance, management, and toll collecting. Let's see if we can kill the MYTHS that keep cropping up and to my astonishment, appear here, continuing to spread erroneous information. It is crucial that anyone working with C&O history catch up with the corrections to our previous understanding that are coming from critical legal documents (in the case of the Trusteeship era and eventual sale) and other historic sources not previously available or studied by researchers. If errors of this magnitude appear here, what will come out of related documents being produced in relationship to this project?

Organization: C&O Canal Association

Commenter: Karen M Gray **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 648468 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Is there a budget? Where is the money coming from?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

HP1000 Historic Preservation: Retain Historic Nature of Canal (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 648417 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Any plan for the future of the canal in Georgetown should recognize that historic preservation must be an overriding consideration. The project brochure and the presentation at the scoping meeting show sensitivity to the unique qualities of the location; however, plans for development of "plazas" along and within the borders of the canal park are not clearly defined. Revitalization of the neighborhood is a worthwhile objective, but commercialization or overcrowding of the park must be strictly avoided. We urge that all options for enhancement are fully protective of the longstanding charm and historical integrity of the canal and its towpath, associated structures and open spaces.

Organization: C&O Canal Association

Commenter: William Holdsworth **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648596 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: No matter how benign or beloved other projects promise to be, they inherently share attributes that could prove sadly disruptive to this cherished site. The establishment of the National Historic Park is the only change that could ever have been contemplated to the Canal that would preserve it primarily as a window into the past. Our country is better off for that outcome.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriquì **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648595 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Gilding plans with promises of a modern "urban oasis" that will bring visitors and "vitality" to the park, no matter how popular or lucrative they seem, are, at their core, transformations that potentially threaten the park's essence.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriquì **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648592 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: This heritage is largely dependent on NPS exercising its duty to protect the area, and not being too swayed by plans that may seem attractive, yet threaten to undermine the Park's historical character. For example, in presentations to the community and in press comments, advocates for the revitalization project derive inspiration from sites having little to do in character with a National Historical Park. One of these, New York's High Line, barely alludes to its site's past, while high-end residences, shops, and eateries have

overtaken the former industrial feel along another, London's Regent's Canal. These and the other references now cited for the C&O are out-of-step with the Park's founding and operation.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Srique **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648588 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Preserving the character of the Park's "historical" designation should take precedence over other planning and design considerations.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Srique **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 56 **Comment Id:** 648579 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Enhance the canal's heritage, but don't turn it into an amusement park.

Organization:

Commenter: S Green **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648557 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: To respect, celebrate and interpret the Canal's historic character, authenticity, and sense of place. In particular, the Plan should create a roadmap for restoring and stabilizing the Canal's historic elements; highlighting the Canal's scenic, natural and cultural history through design elements and programming

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648548 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: My hope is that the 'finished product' highlights the history of the canal and those who lived and worked on the canal, as well as the businesses that flourished because of the canal

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648543 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Current uses should not be restricted or removed to permit the introduction of new interpretive uses which historically have not been in place.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648541 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Viewsheds of and from the Towpath should not be encumbered or blocked.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648540 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The proposed revitalization area must be regarded and reviewed as part of a continuous and contiguous national historical park.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648539 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Its unique identity and cultural significance must be treated with the utmost respect to ensure neither is diminished. Any additional access points, lighting and signage must reflect the historic character of both the park and surrounding district. The introduction of these additions into the historic areas must be appropriate, unobtrusive and provide a seamless connection between the two areas.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648538 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: In assessing plans to revitalize portions of the C&O National Historical Park, the National Park Service must stay true to its mission as the protector of the nation's federal parkland. Regardless of the EA's focused location, the C&O Canal NHP Park is one park, it is not segmented into proprietary sections with one geographic area or neighborhood "owning" it. The interpretation of the history and use of the C&O Canal must be framed by its agricultural and industrial uses - not a recreation area with state of the art entertainment facilities and equipment. It should also not be confused with the Georgetown Waterfront Park, an area of the Potomac River extending between the Washington Harbor Complex and K Street.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648537 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Enhanced visitor experiences and optimized underutilized areas must not end in conflict with the historic park

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 648534 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The image of the canal on the Historic Georgetown website, with water cascading over a lock, and the adjacent towpath and nearby low-scale buildings, is exactly the atmosphere that should be maintained. Similarly, all vestiges of 19th century construction (stone retaining walls, bridges, and access-ways) must be retained.

Organization: Self

Commenter: Richard T Busch **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 648533 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I support initiatives to make the historic canal resource in the Georgetown neighborhood and beyond more accessible for all residents and visitors while ensuring that all steps are taken to maintain its historic ambience.

Organization: Self

Commenter: Richard T Busch **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 648531 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I think it is critical that the historic aspects are preserved and emphasized,

Organization:

Commenter: Alice Carter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648511 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: We want to ensure that its history and beauty are preserved and highlighted for visitors, workers, and residents who we hope to attract to Georgetown in the coming years.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648489 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Preserving the Canal's heritage and historic dignity is important

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 648478 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: History, history, history- - this section of Washington has such great potential for teaching everyone with America's past- from George Washington's interest in a canal for improved transportation to the canal's actual operation. The canal barge is not only great history, but can be an attractive asset for visitors.

Organization:

Commenter: J E Murdock III **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648446 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: PLEASE retain as much of the historical blue print as possible to prevent the area from resembling an amusement park.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648443 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: MORE HISTORICAL MARKERS Few know what "0" marker is or what it stands for. Many don't know that the canal once went downtown. Few know what the aqueduct bridge was, how it operated or where the ruins are.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 648436 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Sound reinvestment in historic properties flanking the Canal should be encouraged, along with repairs to bridges and DC sidewalks and streets.

Organization:

Commenter: Carrie Johnson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 648435 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The Canal is not some featureless trench for designers to play with. It has a distinctive look and character that should be restored, enhanced and interpreted in its historical and geographic context. Visitors' perspectives can be broadened by interpretive features that honor and explain Georgetown as a port; the history of Potomac River commerce and Potomac River floods; and the Canal's long reach to the West.

Organization:

Commenter: Carrie Johnson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 648434 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: This can be a productive effort if it stays true to the character of the C&O Canal as a National Historical Park and a main stem of industrial Georgetown - - not a potential playground, greened-up garden, or magnet for shoppers. This is not the High Line and that hoked-up, over-designed approach would be inauthentic and inappropriate here.

Organization:

Commenter: Carrie Johnson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 648429 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Protect, preserve and enhance the historic aspects of the area. (Rebuild/reopen the visitors center; rewater the canal; bring back the canal barge; repair/enhance Mile O; eliminate the graffiti. Maintenance funding for the area is important.)

Organization:

Commenter: Sally C Strain **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 648422 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: none of these structures should be installed or placed in such a manner that would cause a permanent, irreversible change to the canal or its historic structures.

Organization:

Commenter: William Brown **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

NE1000 Compliance Considerations (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 648431 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The Corps requests that the following topics be comprehensively evaluated in the EA: 1. Purpose and need for the project. 2. Alternatives analysis/Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Based on the project purpose, the Corps will need to concur on the range of alternatives retained for detailed study in the EA. The alternatives analysis should comprehensively evaluate the following: a. Alternative pedestrian access routes. b. A complete description of the criteria used to identify, evaluate, and screen project alternatives. 3. Methods to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. a. Methods to minimize adverse effects to water quality b. Methods to minimize adverse effects to natural and cultural resources c. Reduction in project scope d. Reuse/upgrade of existing infrastructure 4. Corps public interest review factors. The decision to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Among the factors that must be evaluated as part of the Corps public interest review include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and streams, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, water quality, considerations of property ownership, air and noise impacts, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Each of the Corps public interest factors that are relevant to this project must be evaluated comprehensively in the EA. 5. Delineation of all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, in the project area. 6. Quantify impacts to waters of the U.S. (both temporary and permanent) to all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, for each project alternative. For waterways, include both the linear feet of waterway impacts (measured along the centerline of the waterway) and square feet of impact; for wetlands, include both square foot and acreage impacts; and for temporary wetland impacts, quantify any change in wetland classification (e.g., palustrine forested to palustrine emergent, etc.) and method of work to accomplish this change. 7. Cumulative and indirect impacts resulting from the project. 8. Environmental justice including compliance with the Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice. 9. Describe the disposal options for any excess fill material resulting from construction. 10. Wetland and waterway mitigation plans. 11. Analysis of the project's compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267) [essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment]. 12. Air quality impacts (i.e., Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review). 13. Compliance with the Executive order on floodplains. 14. Compliance with Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. 15. Project review schedule and NEPA document preparation schedule. Other important milestones (e.g., public hearings, etc.) should be listed in the EA.

Organization: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Commenter: Steven Harman **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 648463 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I think it is important to think about the homeless as part of the stakeholder groups. Yes there's an issue with safety that has to be addressed, especially the north side. Really critical. But, they are part of the community.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 648469 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: How do we ensure diversity?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 648471 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: How will the C&O be impacted by climate change?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 648474 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The houses built by Robert Peter currently incorporated in the Ritz Carlton property as support buildings for their hotel. Add to APE?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 648536 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Exclusivity should not frame the EA findings for the mile-long section of the C&O Canal NHP and is the reason comments from a wider group of users is critical to its outcome.

Organization: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D05

Commenter: Alma H Gates **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 61 **Comment Id:** 648612 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The protection of our tribal cultural resources and tribal trust resources will take all of us working together. We look forward to working with you and your agency. With the information you have submitted we can concur at present with this proposed plan. As with any new project, we never know what may come to light until work begins. The Delaware Nation asks that you keep us up to date on the progress of this project and if any discoveries arise please contact us immediately.

Organization: Delaware Nation

Commenter: Kimberly Penrod **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648613 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Since the range of alternatives evaluated is defined by the purpose and need for the project, it is important that the purpose and need be clearly identified in the EA. The purpose or objective of the proposal should be defined in relationship to the need for the action. Therefore, the need for the action should identify and describe the underlying problem or deficiency; facts and analyses supporting the problem or deficiency in the particular location at the particular time should be specified; and the context or perspective of the agency mission in relation to the need for action should be stated.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648614 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The alternatives analysis is central to the EA and it is important to provide it in the public document. As described in the regulations for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR Â§1502.14), the examination and comparison of the alternatives under consideration is the heart of the environmental document. It is through this comparison that the lead agency is able to incorporate agency and public input to make informed decisions with regard to the merits of the project and the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives being studied. Consequently, the CEQ regulations require that the details of each alternative, including the "no action" alternative be clearly presented in a comparative form for easy analysis by the reader. It is recommended that the "no action" include the baseline impacts on natural and cultural resources of the existing trail system, and these impacts be considered in comparison to the proposed action. The rationale for the selection of the preferred alternative should be clearly stated in the analysis. For those alternatives that are eliminated from consideration, the reasons for their elimination should be given.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648615 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The project area should be described, specifying the type and acreage of land impacted as well as a description of the existing buildings on the site including their current and past use. Please discuss any permits required before commencement of the project. In addition to NEPA, other laws, regulations, permits, licenses and Executive Orders (EO) may be applicable to the Proposed Action. A summary of applicable regulatory requirements and approvals with which the Proposed Action will demonstrate compliance should be discussed in the EA.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648616 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The EA should examine the potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the environment. In addition, mitigation measures for any adverse environmental impacts should be described.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648617 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: All water quality issues including surface water, groundwater, drinking water, stormwater management, wastewater management, wetlands and watersheds should be addressed. Any existing and/or ongoing impact to water resources that have resulted from the current trail network that may occur as a result of the updated trail should also be identified and explained. NEPAassist can also be used to identify if there are any impaired waters located near the site. Groundwater: The principal aquifers in the region should be identified and described. All wells, both public and private, that could potentially be affected by the project must be identified. Areas of groundwater recharge in the vicinity should also be identified and any potential impacts from the proposed action examined. Surface Water Resources: The EA should outline measures to protect surface waters. The aquatic ecosystem should be evaluated carefully and include a detailed discussion of runoff, sediment and erosion control measures. Such mitigation measures must address both short term construction impacts and long term project impacts. Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Chesapeake Bay EO 13508, Protecting and Restoring a National Treasure, tasked a team of federal agencies to draft a way forward for protection and restoration of the Chesapeake watershed. This team, the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay, developed the Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This strategy sets out clear and aggressive goals, outcomes, and objectives to be accomplished through 2025 by the federal government, working closely with state, local, and nongovernmental partners, to protect and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The strategy deepens the federal commitment to the Chesapeake region, with agencies dedicating unprecedented resources, targeting actions where they can have the most impact, ensuring that federal lands and facilities lead by example in environmental stewardship and taking a comprehensive, ecosystem-wide approach to restoration. We recommend NPS discuss in the EA the project's impact or relation to the goals of the EO.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648618 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Wetlands: Wetlands present on, or immediately surrounding the site should be delineated according to the 1987 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands. Impacts to wetlands should be avoided or minimized whenever possible. The total size of the wetlands should be provided, in addition to the size of the wetland in the study area and size of the direct impact. The EA should analyze the size and functional values of all impacted wetlands and develop a mitigation plan for their replacement. Even if wetlands are not present on the site, please provide information for any nearby resource. Stormwater Management/Low Impact Development (LID): Stormwater runoff in urban and developing areas is one of the

leading sources of water pollution in the United States. In recognition of this issue, Congress enacted Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to require federal agencies to reduce stormwater runoff from federal development projects to protect water resources. EPA published Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act. It is recommended that trail design incorporate features to minimize runoff and consider potential retrofit for any areas that would benefit from LID.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648619 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The EA should provide a description of the terrestrial habitat resources in the study area. Complete species lists for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plants present in the study area are recommended. The composition and characteristics of each community type should be summarized and the functions and total acreage indicated.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648620 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Discussion of the socioeconomic and cultural status of the area, including the number of people, employees and/or jobs impacted as a result of the proposed project, even if these impacts may be minor, is useful to the EA analysis. The EA should address the decrease or increase of people/employees/jobs in relation to its effect on tax base, local housing, job markets, schools, utilities, businesses, etc.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648621 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The EA should address traffic and transportation as it relates to the Proposed Action. It may be necessary to provide an evaluation of existing roads specifying existing levels of service at major intersections near the project area as well as accident data. The EA should discuss existing and proposed public transportation to the area and provide estimates of expected usage. Increased demand on parking should also be considered.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648622 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs each federal agency to incorporate environmental justice into its mission and activities by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations" The EO also explicitly called for the application of equal consideration for Native American programs. The EA should identify Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in the study area and discuss potential impacts that the Proposed Action may have on these communities. To assist in this effort, EPA has developed a new EJ mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. It can be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>. Additionally, please consider referring to "Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews": <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/ej-iwg-promising-practices-ej-methodologies-nepa-reviews>.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648623 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks to children. "Environmental health and safety risks" are defined as "risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest." When conducting assessments of environmental risks, the lead agency should consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards. Please identify/discuss children in the study area and potential impacts that may result from the Proposed Action.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648624 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended through 2006, directs federal agencies to integrate historic preservation into all activities which either directly or indirectly involve land use decisions. This is to ensure federal leadership in the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources of the United States. Cooperation with the District of Columbia Office of Planning, Georgetown BID, Georgetown Heritage, DC SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, throughout the process is encouraged.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648625 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: An EA should include a Distribution List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the document were sent as indicated in 40 CFR Â§1502.10 under "Recommended format" and Â§1502.19. A Distribution List identifies those parties who have been given the opportunity to comment and reveals that those not included on the list may need to be given the EA for review. This information is useful to show that parties are given the opportunity to review and provide input to the impacts of the proposed action.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648626 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Given the project's location within the C&O Canal NHP, Georgetown Historic District, and adjacent to Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District, the EA should evaluate potential impacts to the historic and cultural resources of the area. NCPC requests that the following topics be analyzed in the EA: Cultural landscape elements including the C&O Canal NHP and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District and any adjacent landscape that may be impacted . Encourage NPS to consult with the National Register Division to identify cultural landscapes and archeological sites and resources (listed and identified).

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648627 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Because of the potential impacts to historic and cultural resources, NCPC requests that the following viewshed impacts be evaluated in the EA: Lighting impacts on the Canal and surrounding areas and neighborhoods. Views to and from the Canal, Alexandria Aqueduct, the zero mile-marker, and adjacent trails including the Capital Crescent Trail and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Trails. Views from surrounding areas and structures such as the Key Bridge, the Georgetown Market, the West Heating Plant, the Watergate Complex, and the Kennedy Center. Any potential impacts on the views and vistas from other federally owned land such as Theodore Roosevelt Island, Georgetown Waterfront Park, and George Washington Memorial Parkway. As well as adjacent residential neighborhoods, and these streets (including bridges over the Canal): Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; Wisconsin Avenue, NW; Thomas Jefferson Street, NW; Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; 33rd Street, NW; 3151 Street, NW; 30111 Street, NW; and 29111 Street, NW. Any new viewing or vantage points proposed in the Plan or design process.

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648628 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: NCPC requests that the following topics be analyzed in the EA: Stormwater management, including federal and local requirements such as Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act

(EISA) and the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) stormwater management regulations. Vegetation and tree canopy cover. Water quality (including nutrients, sediments, and bacteria) impacts on the Potomac River watershed and floodplains. Climate preparedness and adaptation. Wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Topography changes and soil impacts. Utility infrastructure, including water supply; wastewater treatment; combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls; and energy requirements. The integration of pollinator friendly species into the landscape palette consistent with the June 2014 Presidential Memorandum - Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648629 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: NCPC supports the District of Columbia government's goal of increasing the city's tree canopy. Therefore, we recommend the EA evaluate the existing tree canopy and ways to maximize the tree canopy in the future. The Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital recommends a minimum replacement of trees at a one to one ratio; however, given the District of Columbia's goal and federal sustainability goals, we recommend that NPS replace trees at a higher ratio. We also recommend the preservation and protection of any healthy mature trees. We request that NPS evaluate environmental site design to handle stormwater management for the project including potentially using: porous/permeable pavement for walkways and parking area; rainwater harvesting for irrigation use; bioretention, bioswales, and rain gardens. Transportation Systems and Pedestrian Amenities NPS should determine the desired capacity at the Canal for pedestrians, bicyclists, and visitors and design the project elements, such as sidewalk and bicycle lane widths, in response. Once capacity is determined, the following transportation impacts and visitor amenities should be evaluated and analyzed in the EA: Connections and gateways to other recreational trails such as the Capital Crescent Trail; and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Trails. Existing social trails along and connecting to the Canal.

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648630 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Trail designation, widths, and surfaces. Wayfinding, and signage for pedestrian and bicycle orientation to surrounding destinations and local and regional trails including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Fort Circle Parks Trails. Safe and visible trail crossings on-grade with roadways or bridges. Vertical connections (from roads or bridges) to the C&O Canal and towpath. Connections to Georgetown and the Georgetown waterfront. Multi-modal (bicycle and pedestrian) circulation, modal separations, and access to the site during construction, normal operations, and special/large events. Bicycle parking locations and Capital Bikeshare locations. Pedestrian and visitor amenities, such as restrooms, seating, and trash receptacles. Connections from transit including: Metrobus, Circulator, Metro shuttles, and other planned transportation improvements. Coordinate transportation and pedestrian improvements with other plans and projects (listed below). Recreational Resources NCPC requests that the EA examine impacts on existing recreational resources

and amenities including: Connections to the Georgetown waterfront and other visitor destinations. Connections to boat rentals and launch points for kayaks and canoes. Access to public parking locations and availability during normal operations and special events. Other Plans and Projects NPS should examine and coordinate with other plans and programs such as the Georgetown Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone Development Plan and Environmental Assessment; Georgetown's Rosslyn Gondola Feasibility Study; and the Rock Creek Park Multi-Use Train Rehabilitation project (particularly the Rose Park segment improvements); and the Clean Rivers Project.

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 648631 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Other Topic Areas In addition, we request that the following topics be analyzed in the EA: Visitor use and experience Adjacent land uses (existing and proposed) Soil structure and erosion Air quality Noise Wildlife including habitat, populations, threatened or endangered species, and animal damage control Infrastructure improvement including roads, bridges, trails, and utilities Vegetation (threatened or endangered plants) Health and safety NCPC Coordination The proposed project is required to be submitted to NCPC for formal review in accordance with the National Capital Planning Act. These comments have been prepared in accordance with NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act, as the central planning agency for the federal government in the National Capital Region, NCPC has an advisory review authority for the master plan. NCPC will have approval authority for individual projects within the Plan and will rely on the EA. Therefore, NCPC is requesting to be a Cooperating Agency to fulfill its independent NEPA responsibility. NCPC will also have a Section 106 responsibility for individual projects within the plan and therefore requests to be a signatory to the Programmatic Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement should the project result in adverse effects on historic properties.

Organization: NCPC

Commenter: Diane Sullivan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 62 **Comment Id:** 648636 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: To assist in exploring resource impacts for sites, the NEPA reviewer is referred to EPA's NEPAAssist tool at <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>. (NEPAAssist is a tool that facilitates the environmental review process and project planning in relation to environmental considerations. The web-based application draws environmental data dynamically from EPA Geographic Information System databases and web services and provides immediate screening of environmental assessment indicators for a user-defined area of interest. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earlier stages of project development.) EPA's Environfacts tool at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/> may also be of use to NPS. (Environ facts is a comprehensive source for Environmental Information). Areas for individual attention are described below.

Organization: EPA Region III

Commenter: Barbara Rudnick **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

PO1000 Park Operations: NHP Needs Maintenance Plan (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 648470 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: How will any plans deal with the NPS deferred maintenance for the 1 mile section of the canal?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648610 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Georgetown BID does a wonderful job with their great team of blue uniformed workers who are constantly picking up trash and sweeping the streets? The riverfront park has its own team who are always out there working on the landscape or removing trash. The canal should have the same kind of well managed service.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648607 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: This leads to the question of maintaining what is sure to be a wonderful revitalized canal. I feel strongly that the canal should have a proper budget for this aspect of the project.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648549 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The canal needs to be maintained, clean, free of rats as much as possible, easy to discover - a refreshing and peaceful place.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 648535 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: That same kind of attention into the future can preserve both the existing resource while thoughtfully encouraging increased use by all.

Organization: Self

Commenter: Richard T Busch **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648490 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Also, there is no mention in the plan of who will be responsible for the maintenance of these plazas or the walkways for that matter. Georgetown BID? The National Park Service? DC Government?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

SS1000 Safety and Security: Concerns with Loitering (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 648460 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I would like to see elements that do not allow or encourage persons to sleep or camp out. For instance, prior to the demolition of Lock #3/4, the area directly in front of my office (1505-30th Street, NW) had three 8'x4' low-to-the-ground (about 8" off the ground) tables that persons used to camp continuously (24 hours for days at a time), leaving trash, hanging laundry from the trees, etc. Having elements in or along the canal that allows or encourages camping or long-term sleeping is a poorly devised design idea. I support the NPS; I have lived in Georgetown for over 26 years.

Organization:

Commenter: Craig Davitian **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 648632 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I support the restoration of the canal, it is a wonderful part of our history worth renovating and protecting. But a wonderful renovation project does not allow elements which encourages or allows camping, continuous sleeping, or un-neighborly behavior.

Organization:

Commenter: Craig Davitian **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648602 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: A design that better defines what the public areas are as opposed to the private spaces would be welcomed. Trees, plants, fountains and perhaps having a large sculpture (something along the line what one sees in cities like Chicago) are welcome while late night loitering is not.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 58 **Comment Id:** 648586 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: In spots overlooking the rebuilt canal that lend themselves to contemplation, we need benches with backs and dividers (dividers so people do not sleep overnight on the benches)that provide a venue for quiet thought.

Organization:

Commenter: Shelley R Ross-Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 648462 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: There is also major concern from my clients as to the large homeless encampments that will return if the large park benches are put back in place in front of the Foundry building. There needs to be tougher enforcement once the park is restored. We have many full office, mostly female clients who worry about accosted if they come into work early or stay late and leave at night.

Organization: Oliver Carr Company

Commenter: James Baer **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

SS2000 Safety and Security: Other Safety concerns (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 648439 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: -Low-lighting would be a great addition for safety along the canal

Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee

Commenter: Ross N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648606 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Frankly a greater police presence dedicated to monitoring the canal area would be good, but I realize budget constraints would probably make that impossible. If that is not realistic, a comprehensive system of high quality video cameras should be a must and some central command post to monitor them. And while on the subject of safety, I feel strongly that there is a relationship between the canal and the riverfront park and the major traffic problems on K/Water Street.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648561 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: provide for programming that attracts and serves diverse audiences; and include amenities to make visitors comfortable and safe.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648552 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: There will be a debate about how to accommodate bikes on the narrow land stripes along the canal. Runners, baby carriages, walkers I believe should take precedence over ridden bikes.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 648532 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: while creating a safe, comfortable space for families and friends to gather and stay a while or zoom through on bikes or running.

Organization:

Commenter: Alice Carter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648509 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: They support improved safety through the installation of more, and better, lighting and other improvements to the tow path, bridges, and plazas.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648502 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The concern over potential for crime in the canal area is not overblown. For example, I have personally observed drug use by visitors to the canal grounds at off-peak hours or as night falls, and planners should think about how to influence visitor behavior "after hours" in design of the revitalization.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648499 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Second, the plan should address a myriad of safety and accessibility concerns around the canal. The plan should address improved lighting around the canal as dusk falls, as it can be difficult to see the towpath as the sun sets. On balance, the planners should think about how to minimize use of the canal after dark. As a Georgetown resident who lives adjacent to the canal, I do not want to see a revitalized canal draw persons to the canal after dark, where groups may congregate - creating noise for adjacent residents (at best) or using the relatively more secluded canal area for illicit activities or crime (at worst).

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648494 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: And who is responsible for safety and security concerns and carrying liability/injury insurance?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648448 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: REPAIR the tow path to make it safer.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648445 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: SOLAR POWERED lighting or lanterns would enliven and make safer the canal tow path in the evening.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE1000 Visitor Use and Experience: Accessibility (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648398 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: All of the connections into the park need to be enhanced by making the park more accessible and easier to find through improved wayfinding and bridge, stairs, and path upgrades.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 648405 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Lastly, the issue of access to the Canal, especially on the Western end in Georgetown, suggest to me that a public elevator is needed at some point on the canal. The NPS building on Water street near Key Bridge could be redeveloped along with the adjacent property, 3401 Water Street, to be a public elevator with stops on Water Street, the Canal, and Key Bridge. This would provide ADA access between Waterfront Park, the Canal, and Francis Scott Key Park, as well as to other destinations on each elevation bench. With an ongoing effort to redevelop that building to a 7 story structure, including a public elevator using NPS assets would be a tremendous benefit to the public and park users in particular.

Organization:

Commenter: Will Handsfield **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 648408 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Create a new access from 30th Street to the green area besides Embassy of Venezuela (lock number 2). Some stairs or a nice ramp ? It is a beautiful area an direct access from the street would be great.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 648409 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: With a new visitor center at Thomas Jefferson and the narrow bridge it would be nice to consider Thomas Jefferson Street like a only pedestrian street. Just restricted access for business or neighbors.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 648411 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would like to see a sign or signs at the end of the canal where the old plaque is that indicate how to get to Mile zero

Organization:

Commenter: David W Schuetz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 648412 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would love if the towpath were continued through Georgetown all the way to the mile 0 point for people walking and biking (including those riding from Cumberland or Pittsburgh). I completed the GAP and C&O route a few years ago and was disappointed with the final stretch of the towpath as it winds around the Thompson Boat Center. The path could cross Virginia Ave NW as it currently does, then cross over the canal inlet over a bike/pedestrian bridge.

Organization:

Commenter: Clark Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 648413 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The C&O towpath surface could better accommodate bikes and ADA mobility (wheelchairs) instead of sections of brick paving.

Organization:

Commenter: Clark Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 648414 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Most street crossings over the canal should also provide public access down to the towpath(s).

Organization:

Commenter: Clark Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 648419 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: When the interpretive programs and canal boat programs resume, I believe it is necessary for other visitor needs to be accommodated along the canal, especially between 30th Street and beyond 34th Street to the Aqueduct Bridge site. Very often canoeists would arrive at Lock 4, having paddled from Fletcher's, only to find there was no where to tie-up or safely disembark... many wanting to stop for lunch, stretch their legs or use a restroom. Often individuals, families and groups on Thru-Rides from Cumberland (or even Pittsburg) would arrive after days of biking only to find little to welcome them other than the oft said phrase, "Well, you've got about another 1/2 mile to go to the "0 Mile Marker"..."

Organization:

Commenter: William Brown **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648444 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: There are insufficient signs along M Street or Wisconsin Avenue pointing to the canal.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648454 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: In addition, access into and out of the Canal would likely require unsightly and degrading additions to the walls. I observed the process of the rebuilding of the walls around the 33rd Street bridge which easily visible from my condo. I know that the process required the importing of skilled stonemasons, took months to complete and was very costly. The integrity of the stonework must be protected. Continuous monitoring would be difficult if not impossible.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 648477 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I have a damaged knee; so, greater ease of access would be a priority for me, perhaps not a universal need, however. there are priorities and handicapped access may be expensive

Organization:

Commenter: J E Murdock III **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648496 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Third, the canal path should be redesigned to enable it to be enjoyed by those with physical limitations, as well as families with small children needing strollers. As of now, many parts of the towpath are inaccessible by those with physical limitations; this must be addressed.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648504 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: They would like to see improved accessibility so that bikes and people with stroller or in wheelchairs can cross the canal between Wisconsin Avenue and Key Bridge.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 648524 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: My comments are related to the C&O Canal's links to the spectacular Georgetown Waterfront Park along the Potomac River west of K Street. I would like to urge the National Park Service and Georgetown Heritage to consider ways to incorporate this parkland into its ongoing planning to rehabilitate and make the

historic C & O Canal more accessible and enjoyable to visitors. Attractive signage guiding visitors from one place to the other would provide one way to link the two attractions.

Organization: C & O Canal Association, Board of Directors

Commenter: Nancy benco **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648565 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Specifically, the Plan should improve physical access to the Canal and within the Canal;

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648633 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: For the Tidelock/Milepost 0 area, for example, one or two new signs could help people find the site from K Street. The existing wayside display should be refurbished, and a quick response "QR" code added to it, allowing visitors to receive further interpretation via smart phone. That's about all that's needed, in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE1100 Visitor Use and Experience: Vandalism (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 648423 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Unfortunately, one of the persistent problems with the Georgetown segment of the canal is the constant tagging and vandalism that plagues the area. I do not know how newly created accommodations (docks, ramps, seating, etc.) could be protected from vandalism... this will always be an issue unless and until the US Park Police or the Enforcement Rangers from CHOH work cooperatively together to monitor, enforce, make arrests and set examples that this activity is not going to be tolerated.

Organization:

Commenter: William Brown **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648608 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Currently, the western portion of the canal is a major mess. It's unsafe and the graffiti is totally out of control with tagging all over the beautiful stonework and it's now even appearing on the sidewalks. To make matters worse, the vandalism as crept further east. I would imagine that if there is a private fundraising

component to the project, donors would not be very pleased if they discovered that after donating a large amount of money to refresh the canal, the canal had slipped back into its former state of disrepair.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648521 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Such improvements in this section of the park would have to be combined with an increased effort to control litter and graffiti

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 648467 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: How will you address the growing problem/issue of graffiti along the canal?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE2000 Visitor Use and Experience: Lighting (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648397 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Lighting needs to be added in a tasteful and appropriate way.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 648406 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: It would be great to have a great lighting project. Make the park safe at night, and not only safe but enjoyable, lightning is so important.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 648439 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: -Low-lighting would be a great addition for safety along the canal

Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee

Commenter: Ross N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648445 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: SOLAR POWERED lighting or lanterns would enliven and make safer the canal tow path in the evening.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648499 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Second, the plan should address a myriad of safety and accessibility concerns around the canal. The plan should address improved lighting around the canal as dusk falls, as it can be difficult to see the towpath as the sun sets. On balance, the planners should think about how to minimize use of the canal after dark. As a Georgetown resident who lives adjacent to the canal, I do not want to see a revitalized canal draw persons to the canal after dark, where groups may congregate - creating noise for adjacent residents (at best) or using the relatively more secluded canal area for illicit activities or crime (at worst).

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 648523 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Also, I hope that lighting will be thoughtful and considerate. While lighting is an important security consideration, there is much evidence that "over" lighting can disrupt sleep patterns for neighboring properties and uplighting is wasteful and does not contribute to security.

Organization:

Commenter: C Carter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648605 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Lighting has aesthetic benefits of course but it also plays an important part in keeping the area safe. While I've indicated that we are not looking for hordes of people marching about at night, there are times of the year when the days are much shorter and we can have darkness by 5pm. Folks coming home from work or simply shopping or going to restaurants would appreciate being able to see where they are going.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE3000 Visitor Use and Experience: Do not support non-motorized vessels in Canal (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648453 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Kayaking and canoeing opportunities are readily available very nearby on the Potomac. Promoting such activities in the Canal is redundant and unnecessary, and threatens the quiet and pastoral setting the Canal provides in the heart of Georgetown.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 648484 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: No kayak, canoe or boat rental activity should occur from this location, because it would damage and clutter Fisherman's Square, not to mention the canal itself. Boat/canoe rental already occurs at Fletcher's and at various locations along the Potomac - - let's not take up space along the canal to add yet another one.

Organization: Resident

Commenter: Adam Zagorin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE4000 Visitor Use and Experience: Towpath Improvements (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648400 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Since the paths are so narrow and probably can't be widened very much, perhaps elevated walkways could be added along walls and buildings so that more people can enjoy the canal.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 648413 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The C&O towpath surface could better accommodate bikes and ADA mobility (wheelchairs) instead of sections of brick paving.

Organization:

Commenter: Clark Larson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648448 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: REPAIR the tow path to make it safer.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648495 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Beauty will always attract people, and a well-maintained Canal and towpath will be welcome.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 648522 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Any improvements that ensure the walkability are a bonus. Care should be taken to allow for runners, bikers and relaxed walkers to compatibly share the paths.

Organization:

Commenter: C Carter **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE5000 Visitor Use and Experience: Water Canal (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 648401 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Something needs to be done to keep the water in the canal moving so that it doesn't get stagnant again.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 648403 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would like this study to explore whether swimming could be allowed in the canal with the proper management practices. The entire waterway is relatively shallow, and since its flows are managed, a slightly higher flow could improve the water quality conditions to meet EPA standards for primary contact. Additionally, swimming here would be significantly safer than any of our local rivers due to the ability to manage small swimming area, or create a virtual lane for longer-distance openwater swimming in the mornings and evenings when canal boat and kayak traffic will be light. This is the rare waterway which has the potential to be managed for public swimming access, and the idea should at least get a thorough vetting to determine what steps might be required to reach this outcome.

Organization:

Commenter: Will Handsfield **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648449 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: KEEP the water clean and free of debris. It has been frequently clouded with weeds and trash.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648455 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: In addition, making it possible for water to remain in the Canal year-round would enhance every aspect of Canal enjoyment.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 648472 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: What opportunities are there to introduce fresh water filter feeders to clean canal waters?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648510 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Our members want to ensure the Canal is restored to good physical condition so that it is able to hold water and remain beautiful.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648563 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The Plan should seek to utilize natural infrastructure to maximize water quality, minimize runoff, and build the health of local ecosystems.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 648576 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I would love to see some sort of sustainable feature, whether it be energy produced by turbines from the outflow of water or a combination of aquatic life that helps keep the Potomac clean.

Organization:

Commenter: Jacob Schmidt **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE6000 Visitor Use and Experience: Connectivity with the rest of the NHP and surrounding neighborhood (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 648512 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: We also want to make sure that the canal is fully integrated into, and not a wholly separate entity from, the neighborhood in which it is located. As an active commercial mixed-use district, we do not want to see this become a passive monument. Rather it should be a place that is alive with activity while honoring its past as a commercial enterprise that served a bustling town and city.

Organization: Georgetown Business Improvement District

Commenter: Joe Sternlieb **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648559 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: and integrating harmoniously into the surrounding neighborhood day and night, respecting the prerogative of those who reside alongside the Canal.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648564 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: To promote and expand the connectivity of the park to its urban context, to the rest of the C&O Canal NHP, to our regional park system, and to the many communities (neighbors, DC-wide, regional, and national) that use and love the canal.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648566 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: build interpretive linkages with other DC-area landmarks, parks, and historic sites; and the Plan should intentionally engage stakeholders from across the city.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648589 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The Park belongs to the entire country. The degree to which plans for this project have been conveyed to represent a park for the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC, and its particular aspirations for the site are potentially troubling. As any stretch of the Park, the section through Georgetown - not "Georgetown's section" as advocates call it in their promotional media "is integral to the fabric created by the 185-mile length taken as a whole. Even with the changes this stretch of the Park has seen over the years, the area effectively conveys the Canal's terminus in an urban setting that once housed nineteenth century industries. In other words, the Park in Georgetown already does a fine job meeting its primary mission, notwithstanding the need for pressing restoration work.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648590 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Just, however, as the section of the Canal under consideration must be treated as one with the rest of the NHP, it should not be overly contextualized with Georgetown via other changes to nearby parks. These should not be seen as "belonging" to Georgetown or any other neighborhood.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648591 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: A sound approach to revitalizing the park treats all attempts to substantially transform it equally.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 59 **Comment Id:** 648594 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: It is also worth noting that advocates publicly aspire to using the Canal as the centerpiece of a broad renewal project targeting other NPS assets located in Georgetown. Just, however, as the section of the Canal under consideration must be treated as one with the rest of the NHP, it should not be overly contextualized

with Georgetown via other changes to nearby parks. These should not be seen as “belonging” to Georgetown or any other neighborhood.

Organization: ANC 3D

Commenter: Michael D Sriqui **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE7000 Visitor Use and Experience: Concerns over drawing additional visitors to the NHP (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 648424 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: as a property owner for the last 25 years at 3071 Canal Street NW, I would say, with respect, that our section between Thomas Jefferson and 31st Streets does not need enhancement or more visitors. The historic houses on that block are a mixture of commercial and residential in private ownership that takes pride in the appearance of their property. There is already plenty of activity and many visitors on our block, so I suggest any work be done on those areas currently vacant. That includes entry from the water to the land, i.e. that should be done below Thomas Jefferson St.

Organization:

Commenter: Louise Sagalyn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648488 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Traffic, parking, and public safety are already huge irritations and frustrations. No plan should be implemented without taking into account the pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile congestion - - including tour buses, which should never be allowed to park, idle their motors, and pollute for hours on end.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 648503 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: So, assuming that the revitalization of the C&O is even half that, that is basically 7,000 visitors on average a day walking the canal. That seems like a lot especially given that the canal path is narrower in many locations than the high line and then on top of that there are plans for the mules pulling the boat along through various locks. Just reflecting. Those of us who love meandering along there and jogging and biking might just find that what we love about the canal in Georgetown isn't there any more.

Organization:

Commenter: Steve & Diane Murdock **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 648527 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: As the planning proceeds, it is important to recognize that the community around the canal is a densely populated community with hundreds of residential units and more than a thousand residents. It is a thriving community of commercial offices and retail establishments as well, a community that is presently, and historically, congested with cars, buses, pedestrians, bikers, delivery trucks and construction activity. It is important to recognize that a mission of more visitors and more activities needs careful consideration and planning to avoid additional congestion, conflict and potential impingement on residential life with events that are noisy, bring trash and crime.

Organization:

Commenter: Margaret Hardon **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648598 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: ...but I am also concerned with what seems to be an attempt thru this restoration to bring more people into an already busy neighborhood.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648599 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: If I were to list the number one topic that our residents seem to agree on, it would be the concern over a potential increase in foot and vehicular traffic to the neighborhood and all that comes with it. We certainly recognize that we live along a busy section of the canal and certainly don't begrudge visitors who come to experience all that the canal and river have to offer, but unfortunately, with those visitors comes noise, trash, and congestion on sidewalks and roads.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648600 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Because of the positioning of our building, we have exposure on three sides...the front entrance on 33rd Street, the side of the building that abuts the canal and the side that faces Fish Market Square. Each of those locations has a history of disturbances and unnecessary noise, and adding additional people to the mix would only increase that.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648603 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The ability for someone to sit and quietly eat their lunch or have an early evening snack after shopping is welcome but party venues or food trucks are not. We don't want a playground. We don't wish to see anything that would attract drunk college students coming home from the bars late at night, something we currently have to deal with every year. There are a lot of hard surfaces in that area and coming up with a plan that would help with the acoustics would be welcomed. I realize all of this sounds like one big contradiction...improve the towpath, plant trees, plant flowers, provide shade. etc., but don't attract too many people. A design challenge indeed!

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648611 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Children tearing off large limbs of young trees with the parents standing right there and saying nothingpeople walking thru flowerbeds when there is a sidewalk less than 2 feet away.....people setting up a professional tightrope between two young trees and then practically breaking them in half when using the rope...people throwing large items into the canal...people trying to pry stones out of the walls along the towpath ...graffiti on everything...screaming and hollering right under bedroom windows late at night, and on and on. Is it any wonder why many of the residents along the canal are concerned with even more people coming in?

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE8000 Visitor Use and Experience: Resident Concerns (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 648392 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I hope that the NPS will take into account the interests of longtime residents who live along the Canal. Past efforts by Georgetown BID such as the 2015 Christmastime "Sound and Light" art exhibits along the Canal were undertaken without consulting with residents who were impacted by the sound of recorded music and light pollution until late in the night. This was especially bothersome to Medical Residents and other shift workers who resided in our building. Last year's event took place minus the canned music but was still characterized by light pollution shining into our bedroom windows and the absence of outreach to nearby residents.

Organization:

Commenter: T X T **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 648393 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Georgetown BID has now floated the idea of making the reconstructed Canal Boat available for parties and other evening events. Unfortunately, the stone walls along the Canal are perfect for reflecting and amplifying the noises of any activity taking place in the Canal.

Organization:

Commenter: T X T **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 648394 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I hope that the NPS will be mindful of any potential impacts of future Canal activities on nearby residents, and will continue to implement some sort of "quiet hours" after daylight hours to ensure that residents are not disturbed at night from activities along the Canal. Thank you.

Organization:

Commenter: T X T **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 648424 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: as a property owner for the last 25 years at 3071 Canal Street NW, I would say, with respect, that our section between Thomas Jefferson and 31st Streets does not need enhancement or more visitors. The historic houses on that block are a mixture of commercial and residential in private ownership that takes pride in the appearance of their property. There is already plenty of activity and many visitors on our block, so I suggest any work be done on those areas currently vacant. That includes entry from the water to the land, i.e. that should be done below Thomas Jefferson St.

Organization:

Commenter: Louise Sagalyn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 648447 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: DESIGN public activities that do not cause excessive noise for residential neighbors- -former jazz concerts near the Foundry were wonderful and well attended.

Organization:

Commenter: Jane NA **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648456 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The use of the "underutilized plazas" for "additional recreational activities", should be very carefully considered, especially when such spaces are adjacent to residential facilities.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648458 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: A listing of other concerns I have with regard to the Flour Mill Condominium property and our surroundings, including Fisherman's Square: Noise Traffic - vehicular and human Light pollution Security monitoring Maintenance and liability issues for Fisherman's Square and corridors beside the Flour Mill Cleanliness, including food wastes, with regard to attracting pests as well as appearance

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 648461 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: There is a major concern from my employer and our clients (Oliver Carr Company/Carr Work Places) on the level of noise from the construction on lock 3/4 between Thomas Jefferson Street and 30th Street. After multiple requests, we are never informed on when heavy, noisy work is being done resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in lost business on our end.

Organization: Oliver Carr Company

Commenter: James Baer **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 648482 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: As a condo owner in the Flour Mill Complex, I am most concerned about potential changes in the immediate vicinity of where I and many others live. Specifically, Fisherman's Square, immediately adjacent to the Flour Mill, must be protected and preserved as a zone of calm.

Organization: Resident

Commenter: Adam Zagorin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 648485 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: By the same token, any attempt to transform Fisherman's Square into a venue for crowds of tourists would be a mistake, generating noise and trash and destroying quality of life for nearby residents. No flea markets, please, no outdoor dance venues or wedding spots. People live all around this square!

Organization: Resident

Commenter: Adam Zagorin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 648486 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN that well-meaning improvements to the canal will mean even MORE CONGESTION for this already crowded area, and MORE TRASH (a lot of which just sits in the canal right now, because the Park Service does not remove it with any frequency). Any changes in the vicinity of the Flour Mill - - or along the path of the canal renovation project - - should be carefully evaluated to ensure there is NO increase in CONGESTION AND TRASH, and nearby residents are not further subjected to unwanted NOISE, at a time when those elements are already encroaching from Water and K Streets because of all the "special events" such as 5-K races and the like being held in Potomac Park, with diminished parking throughout our neighborhood. It already takes at least 15 minutes just to drive out K Street on a weekend because of all the traffic, which will grow even worse if the Canal improvement is not handled responsibly.

Organization: Resident

Commenter: Adam Zagorin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648487 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: However, there are many missing pieces to this puzzle, and until neighborhood residents see solutions to parking, traffic gridlock, public sanitation and trash, enforcement of noise and pollution regulations, it is hard to believe that any "re-imagining" of the Canal will have a positive impact on our current quality of life.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648491 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: As far as "under-utilized plazas" go, again, please remember that at least one plaza - - Fishermen's Plaza - - directly faces a low-rise residential condominium. Noise, odors, and smoke go directly into these residents' windows.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648492 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: please remember that the Canal and its walkway literally come right up to residents' front doors and windows. Noise, trash, public intoxication and drug usage have all been problems within the last several years - - ever since Waterfront Park opened. We don't like to talk about it, but it's a fact. As beautiful as the park is, it is the site of drug and other criminal activity.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 648493 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: While it would be great to provide better maintenance and upkeep of the Canal and its towpath, please remember that this is a residential neighborhood. Residents do not want to walk out of their homes into a giant theme park

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648500 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Finally, as a resident living adjacent to the canal, I would strongly encourage planners to think of ways to limit use of Fish Market Square. Unlike other areas adjacent to the canal, this parcel is uniquely situated as it is immediately surrounded by several residential buildings, including the Papermill, Flour Mill, and Canal House. A revitalized canal should not interfere with its neighbors' quiet use and enjoyment of their homes, but should instead enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of the canal for Georgetown residents and visitors alike.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648598 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: ...but I am also concerned with what seems to be an attempt thru this restoration to bring more people into an already busy neighborhood.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648599 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: If I were to list the number one topic that our residents seem to agree on, it would be the concern over a potential increase in foot and vehicular traffic to the neighborhood and all that comes with it. We certainly recognize that we live along a busy section of the canal and certainly don't begrudge visitors who come to experience all that the canal and river have to offer, but unfortunately, with those visitors comes noise, trash, and congestion on sidewalks and roads.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648600 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Because of the positioning of our building, we have exposure on three sides...the front entrance on 33rd Street, the side of the building that abuts the canal and the side that faces Fish Market Square. Each of those locations has a history of disturbances and unnecessary noise, and adding additional people to the mix would only increase that.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648601 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I keep hearing the term "underutilized" mentioned whenever Fish Market Square is brought up and quite frankly, that worries many of us at Flour Mill a lot. The plaza side of the building has a big problem with the public/private mix, especially in the evenings and on weekends. Using the plaza as a skateboard venue is a major problem and we would love to see a design that eliminates that.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 60 **Comment Id:** 648611 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Children tearing off large limbs of young trees with the parents standing right there and saying nothingpeople walking thru flowerbeds when there is a sidewalk less than 2 feet away.....people setting up a professional tightrope between two young trees and then practically breaking them in half when using the rope...people throwing large items into the canal...people trying to pry stones out of the walls along the towpath ...graffiti on everything...screaming and hollering right under bedroom windows late at night, and on and on. Is it any wonder why many of the residents along the canal are concerned with even more people coming in?

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium

Commenter: Peter Stafford **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU/VE9000 Visitor Use and Experience: Retain Oasis-like feel of NHP (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648450 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Keeping the C & O Canal more of a "passive" park as opposed to actively promoting the presence of people in the Canal is definitely my preference.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648453 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Kayaking and canoeing opportunities are readily available very nearby on the Potomac. Promoting such activities in the Canal is redundant and unnecessary, and threatens the quiet and pastoral setting the Canal provides in the heart of Georgetown.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 648465 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The park should remain for future use of tranquility/calm/nature and differentiate from the Georgetown Waterfront Park which could accommodate events, etc.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648501 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: First, in re-designing the landscape around the canal, planners should be sensitive to maintaining the tranquil space around the canal, especially as compared to the busy byways of M Street and K Street/Water Street in Georgetown. I believe the particular attraction of the canal for many visitors is the fact that it is a quiet, bucolic, and historic space in Georgetown, straddled on both sides by the busy shopping and waterfront districts adjacent to the canal.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 648520 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The canal should continue to offer the respite of a calmer, non-commercial experience.

Organization:

Commenter: Edmund (Ned) Preston **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 648529 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: I would like to see the peace and serenity of the canal and towpath preserved as an oasis in the crowded noisy community. With that preservation, I would like to see a thriving natural environment of wildlife - animals, birds, and plants.

Organization:

Commenter: Margaret Hardon **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648549 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The canal needs to be maintained, clean, free of rats as much as possible, easy to discover - a refreshing and peaceful place.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648550 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: The canal should remain a community asset for the residents, a historic stop for visitors to our city and a green space for those who work, play and live in Georgetown.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 648551 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: In years passed, there were informal musical events along the banks. Just an opportunity to sit on the grass or a bench and remove yourself from the hustle of M Street. People ate their lunch along the canal. They took a walk to shake off a bad afternoon at the office. They painted. They read a book or newspaper. I hope the canal will continue to offer that kind of oasis.

Organization:

Commenter: Pam Moore **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648558 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: achieving a congruent balance of energetic activity and tranquil respite

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648560 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: To create beautiful, creative, welcoming and inclusive spaces. The Plan should define a blueprint for creating peaceful public spaces for community to gather;

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 56 **Comment Id:** 648580 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: The canal has always been a place of tranquil gatherings surrounded by history. Any improvements should seek to enhance that.

Organization:

Commenter: S Green **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 57 **Comment Id:** 648581 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: I hope this project preserves the peaceful and natural character of the canal.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 57 **Comment Id:** 648584 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: My favorite part of the canal is the feeling of escape from the city and I hope that this project maintains that feeling.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

**WV1000 WV1000 - Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve/Increase vegetation and wildlife along canal
(Substantive)**

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 648410 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: This project poses a great opportunity to improve the natural environment in Georgetown, and along the Potomac Riverfront. For a long time, invasive plants have overtaken many of the canal's banks, and native plants are struggling to find space to provide the full benefits our ecosystem needs. A robust invasive plant management plan, including the replanting of native herbaceous, shrub, and tree layer, will help enhance the ecological, aesthetic, and economic value of the canal.

Organization:

Commenter: Vincent Verweij **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 648427 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: "Preserve the healthy, mature tree canopy, which holds both environmental and historical significance - Create new green space for a tree-lined canal, which will offer natural aesthetic and environmental

benefits - Remove harmful, non-native trees and debut a management plan to prevent the spread of invasive species along the canal"

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 648430 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Respect the natural wonders of the area. (Retain trees; avoid use of noisy equipment/generators.)

Organization:

Commenter: Sally C Strain **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 648438 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: -I would greatly appreciate preserving as many trees as possible. I think trees add a great deal to the beauty of the canal, as well as shade and privacy.

Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee

Commenter: Ross N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 648452 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Since the Waterfront Park was completed, there has been a sizable increase in the human and pet population around this part of the Canal, accompanied by a noticeable reduction in wildlife sightings. Encouraging human activity in the Canal would further threaten this unique, appealing and enjoyable aspect of Canal-side living and visiting.

Organization: Flour Mill Condominium owner

Commenter: Sally Brooks Meadows **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 648459 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Trees are an important part of every National Park and make a big difference in Washington, DC, the "City of Trees". Trees are important near the Potomac River, the source of drinking water for the residents of Washington, DC. Given the increase in development in the Georgetown and other areas, trees provide a much needed cooling effect to the heat island effect resulting from additional buildings and roads. Rock Creek National Park is the largest Park in DC and it's proximity to the C&O Canal National Historical Park makes for a natural progression of trees in the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal Park. It is for these reasons that I ask for the consideration of more trees in all of the Character Zones, complimenting the existing tree canopy.

Organization:

Commenter: Kathleen M Robertson **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 648483 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Any plan to cut down the three wonderful shade trees located there would be a major mistake. The trees provide a place to sit for all sorts of visitors at tables provided by the BID, and this arrangement should be allowed to continue.

Organization: Resident

Commenter: Adam Zagorin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 648498 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: As a nature lover, I would also be disappointed if a revitalized canal led to fewer wildlife inhabiting or visiting the canal.

Organization: The Flour Mill Condominium Building

Commenter: Alexis F Wetzler **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 648562 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: To restore and protect the canal's biodiversity. Specifically, the Plan should establish an improved native ecosystem of plants, animals and natural communities along the Canal, coherent with the surrounding Potomac Gorge ecosystems; ensure that all improvements or changes to the park make positive contributions to the local ecosystem; and provide for the removal of invasive species and use of native plant species.

Organization: Georgetown Heritage

Commenter: Alison Greenberg **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 648568 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: We want to ensure that the future C&O Canal Park maintains its historic natural landscape and grows tree canopy, so residents can enjoy a shady, tree-lined canal for many generations.

Organization: Casey Trees

Commenter: Kristin D Taddei **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 648569 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Preserve all healthy trees: Preserve the mature trees currently growing in the Aqueduct, Walls, Grove, Locks, and Rock Creek Confluence character zones to complement Georgetown Heritages goal of preserving the canals history (Figure 1).* These mature trees will also continue to provide important ecosystem services before, during, and after restoration.

Organization: Casey Trees

Commenter: Kristin D Taddei **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 648570 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: .Adopt a 35% tree canopy goal: Plant new trees along the canal to achieve James Corner Field Operations goal to create a garden from end to end. Our analysis shows that there is potential to expand tree canopy to cover approximately 35% of the park by planting trees in underutilized green space (Figure 2).* A more continuous tree canopy will offer numerous environmental benefits for the neighborhood, including stormwater infiltration and flood mitigation.

Organization: Casey Trees

Commenter: Kristin D Taddei **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 648571 **Coder Name:** jessica.davis1

Comment Text: Prevent the spread of invasive plants. Create an invasive plant management plan to remove invasive plants currently growing along the canal, and to prevent the establishment of invasive plants in the future. Once invasive trees and plants have been removed, reforest to achieve a 35% tree canopy.

Organization: Casey Trees

Commenter: Kristin D Taddei **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WV2000 Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve existing Green Spaces (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 648473 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Will you save the "green space" behind the Four Seasons Hotel? In the Mule Yard?

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 648475 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: Please preserve the existing green areas in the Georgetown section of the C&O Historical Park. These include the green lawn by Lock 1 (behind Four Seasons Hotel, between 29th Street and Rock Creek

Parkway), the green strip around Lock 2 (between 29th & 30th Streets), and the green lawn in the mule yard by Lock 3 (between 30th Street and Thomas Jefferson Street).

Organization:

Commenter: Stephen J Crimmins **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 648634 **Coder Name:** JESSICA.DAVIS1

Comment Text: It's tempting to build things in these open spaces, but these spaces need to be preserved as green lawns because they offer a rare green respite from all the concrete in this part of Georgetown. Please keep these areas green, natural, open and unspoiled.

Organization:

Commenter: Stephen J Crimmins **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Concern Statements by Comment Code

AL1000 - Alternatives: Alternative Ideas

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59888) Commenters suggest various activities and attractions they would like to see along the canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 15 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648437 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The two ends of this section, Tidelock and the Alexandria Aqueduct, merit special attention as potential gathering places with great views.

AL2000 - Alternatives: Minor Improvements Only

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59889) Commenters support the project but do not wish to see major changes along the Canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 42 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648517 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I hope that enhancements will be done with a light touch and will avoid creating the feel of a programmed experience.

AL3000 - Alternatives: Amenities

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59890) Commenters support the addition of basic amenities in the Park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** C&O Canal Association **Comment ID:** 648416 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The carefully planned addition of amenities such as drinking fountains and rest rooms would also be very welcome.

AL4000 - Alternative: Support for activating underutilized areas along canal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59891) Commenters support and suggest ideas for the underutilized plazas along the Canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** C&O Canal Association **Comment ID:** 648418 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Certain underused parts of the canal park, such as the Mile Zero/Tidelock area, deserve increased attention and visitation.

GC1000 - General Comment: General Support for Project

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59903) Commenters generally support the project.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 11 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648426 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am in full support of this exciting, important effort to redesign and invigorate the Washington DC C&O Canal

GC2000 - General Comment: Miscellaneous Questions and Comments

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59904) Commenters asked questions and commented on the historical information presented by NPS.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 18 **Organization:** Flour Mill Condominium owner **Comment ID:** 648457 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The primary question to be answered is...What will be the measure of success of this project?

HP1000 - Historic Preservation: Retain Historic Nature of Canal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59905) Commenters express the need to highlight and preserve the historic character of the NHP.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 59 **Organization:** ANC 3D **Comment ID:** 648588 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Preserving the character of the Park's "historical" designation should take precedence over other planning and design considerations.

NE1000 - Compliance Considerations

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59892) Commenters provided various topics that they would like to see addressed in the EA.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 62 **Organization:** EPA Region III **Comment ID:** 648616 **Organization Type:** Federal Government

Representative Quote: The EA should examine the potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the environment. In addition, mitigation measures for any adverse environmental impacts should be described.

PO1000 - Park Operations: NHP Needs Maintenance Plan

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59910) Commenters express the need to develop a maintenance plan after the project is complete.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 60 **Organization:** Flour Mill Condominium **Comment ID:** 648607 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This leads to the question of maintaining what is sure to be a wonderful revitalized canal. I feel strongly that the canal should have a proper budget for this aspect of the project.

SS1000 - Safety and Security: Concerns with Loitering

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59906) Commenters oppose improvements that would encourage prolonged loitering.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 20 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 648632 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I support the restoration of the canal, it is a wonderful part of our history worth renovating and protecting. But a wonderful renovation project does not allow elements which encourages or allows camping, continuous sleeping, or un-neighborly behavior.

SS2000 - Safety and Security: Other Safety concerns

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59907) Commenters noted various safety issues along the Canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 41 **Organization:** Georgetown Business Improvement District **Comment ID:** 648509

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: They support improved safety through the installation of more, and better, lighting and other improvements to the tow path, bridges, and plazas.

VU/VE1000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Accessibility

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59893) Commenters encourage improvements that make the Park more accessible to a variety of users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 2 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648398 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: All of the connections into the park need to be enhanced by making the park more accessible and easier to find through improved wayfinding and bridge, stairs, and path upgrades.

VU/VE1100 - Visitor Use and Experience: Vandalism

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59902) Commenters expressed concerns over vandalism along the Canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 42 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648521 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Such improvements in this section of the park would have to be combined with an increased effort to control litter and graffiti

VU/VE2000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Lighting

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59894) Commenters express the need for lighting along the towpath.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 43 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648523 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Also, I hope that lighting will be thoughtful and considerate. While lighting is an important security consideration, there is much evidence that "over" lighting can disrupt sleep patterns for neighboring properties and uplighting is wasteful and does not contribute to security.

VU/VE3000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Do not support non-motorized vessels in Canal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59895) Commenters do not support kayaking or canoeing in the canal as there are other opportunities for this activity in the immediate vicinity of the Park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 18 **Organization:** Flour Mill Condominium owner **Comment ID:** 648453 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Kayaking and canoeing opportunities are readily available very nearby on the Potomac. Promoting such activities in the Canal is redundant and unnecessary, and threatens the quiet and pastoral setting the Canal provides in the heart of Georgetown.

VU/VE4000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Towpath Improvements

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59896) Commenters express general support and suggestions for towpath improvements.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 38 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648495 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Beauty will always attract people, and a well-maintained Canal and towpath will be welcome.

VU/VE5000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Water Canal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59897) Commenters expressed a desire to see water returned to the Canal and an emphasis on improving water quality.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 41 **Organization:** Georgetown Business Improvement District **Comment ID:** 648510
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Our members want to ensure the Canal is restored to good physical condition so that it is able to hold water and remain beautiful.

VU/VE6000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Connectivity with the rest of the NHP and surrounding neighborhood

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59898) Commenters hope that the project will help connect the Georgetown portion of the Park with the surrounding neighborhood and the rest of the NHP.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 50 **Organization:** Georgetown Heritage **Comment ID:** 648564 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: To promote and expand the connectivity of the park to its urban context, to the rest of the C&O Canal NHP, to our regional park system, and to the many communities (neighbors, DC-wide, regional, and national) that use and love the canal.

VU/VE7000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Concerns over drawing additional visitors to the NHP

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59899) Commenters express general concerns of the consequences of attracting additional visitors and encourage designs that do not draw more people.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 60 **Organization:** Flour Mill Condominium **Comment ID:** 648598 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: ...but I am also concerned with what seems to be an attempt thru this restoration to bring more people into an already busy neighborhood.

VU/VE8000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Resident Concerns

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59900) Residents and business owners along the Canal express concern over impacts the project will have on their daily lives.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 38 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 648493 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: While it would be great to provide better maintenance and upkeep of the Canal and its towpath, please remember that this is a residential neighborhood. Residents do not want to walk out of their homes into a giant theme park

VU/VE9000 - Visitor Use and Experience: Retain Oasis-like feel of NHP

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59901) Commenters expressed the Importance of preserving the tranquil setting of the Canal.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 57 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 648584 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My favorite part of the canal is the feeling of escape from the city and I hope that this project maintains that feeling.

WV1000 - WV1000 - Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve/Increase vegetation and wildlife along canal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59908) Commenters expressed the desire to preserve the existing natural resources within the Park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 16 Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee Comment ID: 648438 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: -I would greatly appreciate preserving as many trees as possible. I think trees add a great deal to the beauty of the canal, as well as shade and privacy.

WV2000 - Wildlife and Vegetation: Preserve existing Green Spaces

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59909) Commenters want the existing green spaces along the Canal to remain undeveloped.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 34 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 648634 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It's tempting to build things in these open spaces, but these spaces need to be preserved as green lawns because they offer a rare green respite from all the concrete in this part of Georgetown. Please keep these areas green, natural, open and unspoiled.

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APPENDIX A: All Correspondences Received

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 1

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: T X. T
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Washington , DC 20007
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 12, 2017 Date Received: Jun 12, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I applaud the efforts of the Park Service and concerned Georgetown residents to revitalize the C&O Canal which has fallen into disrepair in recent years.

However, as the effort proceeds, I hope that the NPS will take into account the interests of longtime residents who live along the Canal. Past efforts by Georgetown BID such as the 2015 Christmastime "Sound and Light" art exhibits along the Canal were undertaken without consulting with residents who were impacted by the sound of recorded music and light pollution until late in the night. This was especially bothersome to Medical Residents and other shift workers who resided in our building. Last year's event took place minus the canned music but was still characterized by light pollution shining into our bedroom windows and the absence of outreach to nearby residents.

Georgetown BID has now floated the idea of making the reconstructed Canal Boat available for parties and other evening events. Unfortunately, the stone walls along the Canal are perfect for reflecting and amplifying the noises of any activity taking place in the Canal. I hope that the NPS will be mindful of any potential impacts of future Canal activities on nearby residents, and will continue to implement some sort of "quiet hours" after daylight hours to ensure that residents are not disturbed at night from activities along the Canal. Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 2

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Bethesda, MD 20814
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 15, 2017 Date Received: Jun 15, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My comments after the public meeting on July 14, 2017:

- Open spaces need to be activated by adding seating, cafes, activities, etc.
- More seating needs to be added throughout the park.
- Lighting needs to be added in a tasteful and appropriate way.
- All of the connections into the park need to be enhanced by making the park more accessible and easier to find through improved wayfinding and bridge, stairs, and path upgrades.
- Art should be added throughout the park.
- Since the paths are so narrow and probably can't be widened very much, perhaps elevated walkways could be added along walls and buildings so that more people can enjoy the canal.
- Something needs to be done to keep the water in the canal moving so that it doesn't get stagnant again.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 3

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization:
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 15, 2017	Date Received: Jun 15, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I would like this study to explore whether swimming could be allowed in the canal with the proper management practices. The entire waterway is relatively shallow, and since its flows are managed, a slightly higher flow could improve the water quality conditions to meet EPA standards for primary contact. Additionally, swimming here would be significantly safer than any of our local rivers due to the ability to manage small swimming area, or create a virtual lane for longer-distance openwater swimming in the mornings and evenings when canal boat and kayak traffic will be light.

This is the rare waterway which has the potential to be managed for public swimming access, and the idea should at least get a thorough vetting to determine what steps might be required to reach this outcome.

Additionally, the potential for managed winter ice-skating is very high. A small area of 100 yards could host removable mechanical chilling equipment that would freeze the surface into a reliable skating environment. This would provide amazing and safe public access to a winter activity that is popular, but currently ad hoc whenever conditions align. The Rideau Canal in Ottawa is a great precedent example of what a predictable, managed skateway can provide in community benefits and tourism. Please explore this idea and determine preliminary feasibility as part of this project.

Lastly, the issue of access to the Canal, especially on the Western end in Georgetown, suggest to me that a public elevator is needed at some point on the canal. The NPS building on Water street near Key Bridge could be redeveloped along with the adjacent property, 3401 Water Street, to be a public elevator with stops on Water Street, the Canal, and Key Bridge. This would provide ADA access between Waterfront Park, the Canal, and Francis Scott Key Park, as well as to other destinations on each elevation bench. With an ongoing effort to

redevelop that building to a 7 story structure, including a public elevator using NPS assets would be a tremendous benefit to the public and park users in particular.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 4

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Washington, DC 20007
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 15, 2017	Date Received: Jun 15, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Regarding the new plan for the mile 1 of the C&O Canal I would like to expose some ideas:

- It would be great to have a great lighting project. Make the park safe at night, and not only safe but enjoyable, lightning is so important.
- Create a new access from 30th Street to the green area besides Embassy of Venezuela (lock number 2). Some stairs or a nice ramp ? It is a beautiful area an direct access from the street would be great.
- There is no dogs park down M street , it would be fantastic to incorporate some dog park to the project . Mules camp, lock number 2 area, any other place by the aqueduct ?????
- With a new visitor center at Thomas Jefferson and the narrow bridge it would be nice to consider Thomas Jefferson Street like a only pedestrian street. Just restricted access for business or neighbors.

Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 5

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 16, 2017	Date Received: Jun 16, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

This project poses a great opportunity to improve the natural environment in Georgetown, and along the Potomac Riverfront. For a long time, invasive plants have overtaken many of the canal's banks, and native plants are struggling to find space to provide the full benefits our ecosystem needs.

A robust invasive plant management plan, including the replanting of native herbaceous, shrub, and tree layer, will help enhance the ecological, aesthetic, and economic value of the canal.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 6

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 17, 2017	Date Received: Jun 17, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I would like to see a sign or signs at the end of the canal where the old plaque is that indicate how to get to Mile zero.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 7

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Clark Larson
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 19, 2017 Date Received: Jun 19, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I would love if the towpath were continued through Georgetown all the way to the mile 0 point for people walking and biking (including those riding from Cumberland or Pittsburgh). I completed the GAP and C&O route a few years ago and was disappointed with the final stretch of the towpath as it winds around the Thompson Boat Center. The path could cross Virginia Ave NW as it currently does, then cross over the canal inlet over a bike/pedestrian bridge.

The C&O towpath surface could better accommodate bikes and ADA mobility (wheelchairs) instead of sections of brick paving.

Most street crossings over the canal should also provide public access down to the towpath(s).

It would be wonderful to bring back barge trips on the canal through Georgetown, even boat cruises up to Great Falls someday!

Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 8

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: William Holdsworth
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Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 22, 2017 Date Received: Jun 22, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scoping phase of the Georgetown Master Plan for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The plan's objectives include many goals which the C&O Canal Association strongly supports, including improved access, signage, safety, and opportunities for expanded educational and cultural programs. The carefully planned addition of amenities such as drinking fountains and rest rooms would also be very welcome. Certain underused parts of the canal park, such as the Mile Zero/Tidelock area, deserve increased attention and visitation.

Any plan for the future of the canal in Georgetown should recognize that historic preservation must be an overriding consideration. The project brochure and the presentation at the scoping meeting show sensitivity to the unique qualities of the location; however, plans for development of "plazas" along and within the borders of the canal park are not clearly defined. Revitalization of the neighborhood is a worthwhile objective, but commercialization or overcrowding of the park must be strictly avoided. We urge that all options for enhancement are fully protective of the longstanding charm and historical integrity of the canal and its towpath, associated structures and open spaces.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 9

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 24, 2017 Date Received: Jun 24, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I offer these comments in support of some proposed improvements along the mile-long portion of the C&O Canal from Tide Lock to the Aqueduct Bridge...

I both volunteered and served as a seasonal ranger at the Georgetown Visitors' Center from 2001 until the "Georgetown" canal boat's last interpretive journey on July 7, 2011. During most of those 10 years of my involvement (Bike Patrol, Bike Patrol Supervisor, Interpreter, etc.) I saw a vibrant, engaged, dynamic stretch of the canal, at least from 30th Street to the 34th Street cross-over bridge. Canal program/boat patrons ranging from senior 'villages' in Northern Virginia to elementary/middle school history classes to summer campers to the casual tourist/tourist groups enjoyed the daily interpretive canal boat rides, the mules, the rangers and volunteers in period dress, the Civil War reenactors bivouacked on the field, the Civil War reenactors 'commandeering' the boat full of startled passengers, performances by the Wild Cat Regimental Brass Band on special occasions, the special 'anniversary of' events, including Fourth of July special picnic trips up to Fletcher's Cove, and Mule Retirement ceremonies. All of that came to screeching halt with the discontinuation of the interpretive boat programs.

Now, finally, Georgetown Heritage (via the Georgetown BID and with the encouragement of the neighborhood) has begun their work, combined with Park Service's commitment to rebuild/restore Locks 3 and 4, to bring just such programs back to the mile-long stretch of the Canal which is greatly needed.

When the interpretive programs and canal boat programs resume, I believe it is necessary for other visitor needs to be accommodated along the canal, especially between 30th Street and beyond 34th Street to the Aqueduct Bridge site. Very often canoeists would arrive at Lock 4, having paddled from Fletcher's, only to find there was no where to tie-up or safely disembark... many wanting to stop for lunch, stretch their legs or use a restroom.

Often individuals, families and groups on Thru-Rides from Cumberland (or even Pittsburg) would arrive after days of biking only to find little to welcome them other than the oft said phrase, "Well, you've got about another 1/2 mile to go to the "0 Mile Marker"..."

During many of the seasons I worked from the Georgetown Visitors' Center we had to make accommodations for unforeseen/unexpected disruptions to the canal boat program: the reconstruction of the 31st Street Bridge, the repointing of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge, the construction of 3300 Water Street, the extreme low water level conditions created by a storm-induced breach just below Lock 5 at Little Falls Branch which necessitated boarding from a temporary, floating dock just above Lock 4. After each of these unfortunate conditions was resolved, the canal boat operations returned to their previous levels of service. I use this as an example of how Georgetown Heritage and other stakeholders could place (install on a temporary basis) a series of floating docks and ramps along the canal between Lock 4 and the Aqueduct Bridge. These could be placed immediately adjacent to Lock 4, near the Fish Market (Potomac Avenue/Mills), the wooden retaining wall just down-stream from 34th Street and finally at or near the Aqueduct Bridge. These structures would not permanently impact the historic nature of the canal and could be removed off-season or permanently should they be underutilized. I always thought the section of the canal between Tide Lock and 30th Street was kind of neglected but don't have any real insight or suggestions as to how this area might be improved.

Unfortunately, one of the persistent problems with the Georgetown segment of the canal is the constant tagging and vandalism that plagues the area. I do not know how newly created accommodations (docks, ramps, seating, etc.) could be protected from vandalism... this will always be an issue unless and until the US Park Police or the Enforcement Rangers from CHOH work cooperatively together to monitor, enforce, make arrests and set examples that this activity is not going to be tolerated.

So, in summation: I believe that temporary structures along the lower first mile of the C&O Canal would go a long way to encourage more visitorship and participation by both residents and visitors; however, none of these structures should be installed or placed in such a manner that would cause a permanent, irreversible change to the canal or its historic structures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 10

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Louise Sagalyn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 24, 2017	Date Received: Jun 24, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

It is always refreshing to be asked to comment on public projects. I am delighted that the Park Service has taken an interest in enhancing their properties and I am in favor of the beautification project on the Georgetown segment of the C&O Canal.

However, as a property owner for the last 25 years at 3071 Canal Street NW, I would say, with respect, that our section between Thomas Jefferson and 31st Streets does not need enhancement or more visitors. The historic houses on that block are a mixture of commercial and residential in private ownership that takes pride in the appearance of their property. There is already plenty of activity and many visitors on our block, so I suggest any work be done on those areas currently vacant. That includes entry from the water to the land, i.e. that should be done below Thomas Jefferson St.

I look forward to seeing the proposals for development.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 11

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Washington, DC 20001
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 28, 2017 Date Received: Jun 28, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am in full support of this exciting, important effort to redesign and invigorate the Washington DC C&O Canal. When designing this park, please keep these priorities in mind:

- Preserve the healthy, mature tree canopy, which holds both environmental and historical significance
- Create new green space for a tree-lined canal, which will offer natural aesthetic and environmental benefits
- Remove harmful, non-native trees and debut a management plan to prevent the spread of invasive species along the canal

Thank you!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 12

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sally C. Strain
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Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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USA
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 29, 2017	Date Received: Jun 29, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

As a long-time resident of DC, whose neighborhood (Palisades) borders the C&O Canal NHPark, I am a frequent visitor to the historic and natural treasure in our nation's capital.

Please consider the following factors for the Georgetown segment of the park:

1. Protect, preserve and enhance the historic aspects of the area. (Rebuild/reopen the visitors center; rewater the canal; bring back the canal barge; repair/enhance Mile O; eliminate the graffiti. Maintenance funding for the area is important.)
2. Respect the natural wonders of the area. (Retain trees; avoid use of noisy equipment/generators.)
3. Limit the scope of the recreational use of the area. (Recognize the space limitations - - as well as the historic factors; consider requesting bikers to walk bikes or use another route; provide safe lock up areas for bikes; direct visitors to the nearby (larger area) Georgetown Waterfront Park for recreational opportunities.)

Thanks for your work to protect, preserve and maintain the magnificent first mile of the C&O Canal NHPark in Georgetown.

Sincerely,

Sally Strain

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 13

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 3, 2017 Date Received: Jul 3, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (Corps) will be either a participating or cooperating agency in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project so that a Corps permit decision can be rendered at the conclusion of the NEPA process. The draft EA will serve as the Department of the Army Section 10/404 permit application for the project. In this regard, we look forward to working with your agency as the document is developed to ensure that the information presented in the NEPA document is adequate to fulfill the requirements of Corps regulations, the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Corps public interest review process.

The Corps requests that the following topics be comprehensively evaluated in the EA:

1. Purpose and need for the project.
2. Alternatives analysis/Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Based on the project purpose, the Corps will need to concur on the range of alternatives retained for detailed study in the EA. The alternatives analysis should comprehensively evaluate the following:
 - a. Alternative pedestrian access routes.
 - b. A complete description of the criteria used to identify, evaluate, and screen project alternatives.
3. Methods to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S.
 - a. Methods to minimize adverse effects to water quality

- b. Methods to minimize adverse effects to natural and cultural resources
- c. Reduction in project scope
- d. Reuse/upgrade of existing infrastructure

4. Corps public interest review factors. The decision to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Among the factors that must be evaluated as part of the Corps public interest review include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and streams, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, water quality, considerations of property ownership, air and noise impacts, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Each of the Corps public interest factors that are relevant to this project must be evaluated comprehensively in the EA.

5. Delineation of all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, in the project area.

6. Quantify impacts to waters of the U.S. (both temporary and permanent) to all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, for each project alternative. For waterways, include both the linear feet of waterway impacts (measured along the centerline of the waterway) and square feet of impact; for wetlands, include both square foot and acreage impacts; and for temporary wetland impacts, quantify any change in wetland classification (e.g., palustrine forested to palustrine emergent, etc.) and method of work to accomplish this change.

7. Cumulative and indirect impacts resulting from the project.

8. Environmental justice including compliance with the Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice.

9. Describe the disposal options for any excess fill material resulting from construction.

10. Wetland and waterway mitigation plans.

11. Analysis of the project's compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267) [essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment].

12. Air quality impacts (i.e., Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review).

13. Compliance with the Executive order on floodplains.

14. Compliance with Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

15. Project review schedule and NEPA document preparation schedule. Other important milestones (e.g., public hearings, etc.) should be listed in the EA.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 14

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed
Date Sent: Jul 3, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1
Contains Request(s): No
Notes:
Park Correspondence Log:
Date Received: Jul 3, 2017
Form Letter: No
Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

I would highly recommend an in person visit to The RiverWalk in San Antonio, Texas. Full of restaurants and entertainment.
<https://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/>

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 15

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 3, 2017 Date Received: Jul 3, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This can be a productive effort if it stays true to the character of the C&O Canal as a National Historical Park and a main stem of industrial Georgetown - - not a potential playground, greened-up garden, or magnet for shoppers. This is not the High Line and that hoked-up, over-designed approach would be inauthentic and inappropriate here.

The Canal is not some featureless trench for designers to play with. It has a distinctive look and character that should be restored, enhanced and interpreted in its historical and geographic context. Visitors' perspectives can be broadened by interpretive features that honor and explain Georgetown as a port; the history of Potomac River commerce and Potomac River floods; and the Canal's long reach to the West. Sound reinvestment in historic properties flanking the Canal should be encouraged, along with repairs to bridges and DC sidewalks and streets.

The two ends of this section, Tidelock and the Alexandria Aqueduct, merit special attention as potential gathering places with great views.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 16

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Ross N/A
Organization: The World Famous Flour Mill Condominium Roof Deck Committee
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 6, 2017 Date Received: Jul 6, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thanks so much for taking the time to get feedback from the community! A few things I'd like to add to the conversation:

- I would greatly appreciate preserving as many trees as possible. I think trees add a great deal to the beauty of the canal, as well as shade and privacy.
- Low-lighting would be a great addition for safety along the canal
- One neighbor had mentioned the idea of using what I think is being called the Fish Market (up Potomac St behind Dean & Deluca) as a wedding venue. My only concern of that being an event space is making sure there's still room for foot traffic along the canal. I would want that area continually blocked off on weekends for private events. Now, if you want to turn that space into a market or more importantly, a beer garden, I think we can come to a compromise.
- I heard you wanted to fill the canal up with wildflowers until you can fill it back up, great idea!

I think that's it! Looking forward to it!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 17

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 6, 2017 Date Received: Jul 6, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello, I attended your June 14 very interesting and well organized workshop re the canal. I have lived along the canal in Georgetown Canal House since 1992, walked, sketched, taken visitors, and accompanied children on barge rides and even to attend the retirement of mule Frances. I would love to see the following:

MORE HISTORICAL MARKERS

Few know what "0" marker is or what it stands for.

Many don't know that the canal once went downtown.

Few know what the aqueduct bridge was, how it operated or where the ruins are.

There are insufficient signs along M Street or Wisconsin Avenue pointing to the canal.

SOLAR POWERED lighting or lanterns would enliven and make safer the canal tow path in the evening.

PLEASE retain as much of the historical blue print as possible to prevent the area from resembling an amusement park.

DESIGN public activities that do not cause excessive noise for residential neighbors- -former jazz concerts near the Foundry were wonderful and well attended.

REPAIR the tow path to make it safer.

KEEP the water clean and free of debris. It has been frequently clouded with weeds and trash.

THANK YOU NPS!!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 18

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 7, 2017 Date Received: Jul 7, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Statement regarding plans for the C & O Canal
Sally Brooks Meadows

Keeping the C & O Canal more of a "passive" park as opposed to actively promoting the presence of people in the Canal is definitely my preference. One exception I would make is the reintroduction of the barge, which offers, in a controlled setting, educational opportunities regarding the history of the Canal and of Georgetown. Littering, noise and activities that degrade the Canal can be monitored during barge excursions. Of course it would be expected that evidence of mule traffic would be carefully controlled.

Since living beside the Canal in the Flour Mill Condominium, I have enjoyed observing wildlife in and around the Canal. Fish and turtles are frequently observable; I have also seen several snakes and once a deer when the water level was low. (Happily, the National Park responded to my phone alert about the deer and rescued it). I have also seen numerous birds, including swallows, great blue herons, a kingfisher, an osprey, a black crowned night heron, and parades of mallard and Canada goose families each spring.

Since the Waterfront Park was completed, there has been a sizable increase in the human and pet population around this part of the Canal, accompanied by a noticeable reduction in wildlife sightings. Encouraging human activity in the Canal would further threaten this unique, appealing and enjoyable aspect of Canal-side living and visiting.

Kayaking and canoeing opportunities are readily available very nearby on the Potomac. Promoting such activities in the Canal is redundant and unnecessary, and threatens the quiet and pastoral setting the Canal provides in the heart of Georgetown. In addition, access into and out of the Canal would likely require unsightly

and degrading additions to the walls. I observed the process of the rebuilding of the walls around the 33rd Street bridge which easily visible from my condo. I know that the process required the importing of skilled stonemasons, took months to complete and was very costly. The integrity of the stonework must be protected. Continuous monitoring would be difficult if not impossible.

Chief Justice William O. Douglas led the movement over 60 years ago to save the Canal from becoming a highway because of its natural and historic values, not because it had the potential to become a water park recreational venue. Improvements in safety, in accessibility, in structure, including the locks, and in historical education/interpretation seem appropriate to the Canal's origin and character. In addition, making it possible for water to remain in the Canal year-round would enhance every aspect of Canal enjoyment. The use of the "underutilized plazas" for "additional recreational activities", should be very carefully considered, especially when such spaces are adjacent to residential facilities.

The primary question to be answered is...What will be the measure of success of this project?

A listing of other concerns I have with regard to the Flour Mill Condominium property and our surroundings, including Fisherman's Square:

Noise

Traffic - vehicular and human

Light pollution

Security monitoring

Maintenance and liability issues for Fisherman's Square and corridors beside the Flour Mill

Cleanliness, including food wastes, with regard to attracting pests as well as appearance

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 19

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 9, 2017 Date Received: Jul 9, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Washington, DC, I am a frequent user of the trails along the C&O Canal National Historical Park, particularly that area in Georgetown. I enjoy the open space and historic nature of the trail, along with the tree cover that is so important on hot, steaming summer days. Trees are an important part of every National Park and make a big difference in Washington, DC, the "City of Trees". Trees are important near the Potomac River, the source of drinking water for the residents of Washington, DC. Given the increase in development in the Georgetown and other areas, trees provide a much needed cooling effect to the heat island effect resulting from additional buildings and roads. Rock Creek National Park is the largest Park in DC and it's proximity to the C&O Canal National Historical Park makes for a natural progression of trees in the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal Park. It is for these reasons that I ask for the consideration of more trees in all of the Character Zones, complimenting the existing tree canopy.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 20

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Park Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I would like to see elements that do not allow or encourage persons to sleep or camp out. For instance, prior to the demolition of Lock #3/4, the area directly in front of my office (1505-30th Street, NW) had three 8'x4' low-to-the-ground (about 8" off the ground) tables that persons used to camp continuously (24 hours for days at a time), leaving trash, hanging laundry from the trees, etc.

Having elements in or along the canal that allows or encourages camping or long-term sleeping is a poorly devised design idea. I support the NPS; I have lived in Georgetown for over 26 years. I support the restoration of the canal, it is a wonderful part of our history worth renovating and protecting. But a wonderful renovation project does not allow elements which encourages or allows camping, continuous sleeping, or un-neighborly behavior.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 21

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017 Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

There is a major concern from my employer and our clients (Oliver Carr Company/Carr Work Places) on the level of noise from the construction on lock 3/4 between Thomas Jefferson Street and 30th Street. After multiple requests, we are never informed on when heavy, noisy work is being done resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in lost business on our end.

There is also major concern from my clients as to the large homeless encampments that will return if the large park benches are put back in place in front of the Foundry building. There needs to be tougher enforcement once the park is restored. We have many full office, mostly female clients who worry about accosted if they come into work early or stay late and leave at night.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 22

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I think it is important to think about the homeless as part of the stakeholder groups. Yes there's an issue with safety that has to be addressed, especially the north side. Really critical. But, they are part of the community.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 23

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The American Geosciences Institute would be happy to talk about helping and collaborating if a geopark is still of interest.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 24

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The park should remain for future use of tranquility/calm/nature and differentiate from the Georgetown Waterfront Park which could accommodate events, etc.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 25

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Can restaurants open on the canal with an outdoor patio section?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 26

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

How will you address the growing problem/issue of graffiti along the canal?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 27

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Is there a budget? Where is the money coming from?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 28

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

How do we ensure diversity?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 29

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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N/A, UN N/A
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E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017 Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Other
Notes:

Correspondence Text

How will any plans deal with the NPS deferred maintenance for the 1 mile section of the canal?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 30

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

How will the C&O be impacted by climate change?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 31

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

What opportunities are there to introduce fresh water filter feeders to clean canal waters?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 32

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
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E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017 Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Other
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Will you save the "green space" behind the Four Seasons Hotel? In the Mule Yard?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 33

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 14, 2017	Date Received: Jun 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Other
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The houses built by Robert Peter currently incorporated in the Ritz Carlton property as support buildings for their hotel. Add to APE?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 34

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 10, 2017	Date Received: Jul 10, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Please preserve the existing green areas in the Georgetown section of the C&O Historical Park. These include the green lawn by Lock 1 (behind Four Seasons Hotel, between 29th Street and Rock Creek Parkway), the green strip around Lock 2 (between 29th & 30th Streets), and the green lawn in the mule yard by Lock 3 (between 30th Street and Thomas Jefferson Street). It's tempting to build things in these open spaces, but these spaces need to be preserved as green lawns because they offer a rare green respite from all the concrete in this part of Georgetown. Please keep these areas green, natural, open and unspoiled.

Otherwise I support this effort, and I think the James Corner group is a good choice, based on their excellent work on the High Line park in New York City.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 35

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 11, 2017 Date Received: Jul 11, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Par. 2: The B&O RR did not purchase the canal in 1890. The B&O did pay \$100,000 for some strips of land through the Narrows between Pt. of Rocks and Harpers Ferry and in Georgetown when the canal was sold to the US Government. Please contact me if you want the precise amount (down to the penny) that the B&O eventually received (from the newly appointed receivers who sold the canal in 1938) for their Canal Company bonds. The canal was operated by trustees for the bond holders of 1844 and 1878. The C&O Canal Co. remained a legal entity but a newly formed company, the Chesapeake & Ohio Transportation Co. of Washington County (1896), and, the Canal Towage Co. (1903) were contracted with to do some maintenance, management, and toll collecting.

Let's see if we can kill the MYTHS that keep cropping up and to my astonishment, appear here, continuing to spread erroneous information. It is crucial that anyone working with C&O history catch up with the corrections to our previous understanding that are coming from critical legal documents (in the case of the Trusteeship era and eventual sale) and other historic sources not previously available or studied by researchers. If errors of this magnitude appear here, what will come out of related documents being produced in relationship to this project?

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 36

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 11, 2017 Date Received: Jul 11, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

1. I have a damaged knee; so, greater ease of access would be a priority for me, perhaps not a universal need, however. there are priorities and handicapped access may be expensive.
2. History, history, history- - this section of Washington has such great potential for teaching everyone with America's past- from George Washington's interest in a canal for improved transportation to the canal's actual operation. The canal barge is not only great history, but can be an attractive asset for visitors.
3. The base for the canal barge should also offer a visitor's center- - a site for talks, visual displays about the canal, meetings for canal friends, etc. Include good rest rooms, refreshments and a well run store (books, historical items (barge models, stuffed mules, hats, etc.)
4. The original Watergate (on the Potomac, below the Lincoln Memorial) was where I heard my first National Symphony concert. IF there is a point along this segment where people could sit and list to music from a specially created concert barge floating in the canal, that would be special.
5. With a constrained budget, adding new things (sculpture, athletic specific facilities, etc.) should be a low priority. Enhancing what is presently there should be a priority.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 37

Author Information

Keep Private: No
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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 11, 2017 Date Received: Jul 11, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a condo owner in the Flour Mill Complex, I am most concerned about potential changes in the immediate vicinity of where I and many others live. Specifically, Fisherman's Square, immediately adjacent to the Flour Mill, must be protected and preserved as a zone of calm. Any plan to cut down the three wonderful shade trees located there would be a major mistake. The trees provide a place to sit for all sorts of visitors at tables provided by the BID, and this arrangement should be allowed to continue. No kayak, canoe or boat rental activity should occur from this location, because it would damage and clutter Fisherman's Square, not to mention the canal itself. Boat/canoe rental already occurs at Fletcher's and at various locations along the Potomac - - let's not take up space along the canal to add yet another one.

By the same token, any attempt to transform Fisherman's Square into a venue for crowds of tourists would be a mistake, generating noise and trash and destroying quality of life for nearby residents. No flea markets, please, no outdoor dance venues or wedding spots. People live all around this square!
The area around the Flour Mill, as well as K and Water streets more generally, are currently under siege from a major - - and apparently unplanned - - influx of tourists and unwanted vehicle congestion, an uncontrolled flood pouring into Potomac Park and its environs. IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN that well-meaning improvements to the canal will mean even MORE CONGESTION for this already crowded area, and MORE TRASH (a lot of which just sits in the canal right now, because the Park Service does not remove it with any frequency). Any changes in the vicinity of the Flour Mill - - or along the path of the canal renovation project - - should be carefully evaluated to ensure there is NO increase in CONGESTION AND TRASH, and nearby residents are not further subjected to unwanted NOISE, at a time when those elements are already encroaching from Water and K Streets because of all the "special events" such as 5-K races and the like being held in Potomac Park, with diminished parking throughout our neighborhood. It already takes at least 15 minutes just to drive out K Street

on a weekend because of all the traffic, which will grow even worse if the Canal improvement is not handled responsibly.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 38

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
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Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Washington, DC 20007
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 11, 2017 Date Received: Jul 11, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am a resident in Georgetown along the Canal. Preserving the Canal's heritage and historic dignity is important, however, please remember that the Canal and its walkway literally come right up to residents' front doors and windows. Noise, trash, public intoxication and drug usage have all been problems within the last several years - - ever since Waterfront Park opened. We don't like to talk about it, but it's a fact. As beautiful as the park is, it is the site of drug and other criminal activity.

While it would be great to provide better maintenance and upkeep of the Canal and its towpath, please remember that this is a residential neighborhood. Residents do not want to walk out of their homes into a giant theme park. Where does the Old Georgetown Board fit into the process? Traffic, parking, and public safety are already huge irritations and frustrations. No plan should be implemented without taking into account the pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile congestion - - including tour buses, which should never be allowed to park, idle their motors, and pollute for hours on end.

As far as "under-utilized plazas" go, again, please remember that at least one plaza - - Fishermen's Plaza - - directly faces a low-rise residential condominium. Noise, odors, and smoke go directly into these residents' windows. Also, there is no mention in the plan of who will be responsible for the maintenance of these plazas or the walkways for that matter. Georgetown BID? The National Park Service? DC Government? And who is responsible for safety and security concerns and carrying liability/injury insurance?

Beauty will always attract people, and a well-maintained Canal and towpath will be welcome. However, there are many missing pieces to this puzzle, and until neighborhood residents see solutions to parking, traffic gridlock, public sanitation and trash, enforcement of noise and pollution regulations, it is hard to believe that any "re-imagining" of the Canal will have a positive impact on our current quality of life.

For those of use who have been around long enough, there is the perception that Georgetown BID is determined to do whatever it can to further commercial interests in Georgetown at the expense of residents. However, we pay property taxes too, and our quality of life and property values are not served by opening more fast-food joints, nail salons, and convenience stores - - just to fill the vacant spaces.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We want this Canal project to be successful for everyone concerned.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 39

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Correspondence Text

There are several key issues that NPS should consider in this project.

First, in re-designing the landscape around the canal, planners should be sensitive to maintaining the tranquil space around the canal, especially as compared to the busy byways of M Street and K Street/Water Street in Georgetown. I believe the particular attraction of the canal for many visitors is the fact that it is a quiet, bucolic, and historic space in Georgetown, straddled on both sides by the busy shopping and waterfront districts adjacent to the canal. As a nature lover, I would also be disappointed if a revitalized canal led to fewer wildlife inhabiting or visiting the canal.

Second, the plan should address a myriad of safety and accessibility concerns around the canal. The plan should address improved lighting around the canal as dusk falls, as it can be difficult to see the towpath as the sun sets. On balance, the planners should think about how to minimize use of the canal after dark. As a Georgetown resident who lives adjacent to the canal, I do not want to see a revitalized canal draw persons to the canal after dark, where groups may congregate - creating noise for adjacent residents (at best) or using the relatively more secluded canal area for illicit activities or crime (at worst).

The concern over potential for crime in the canal area is not overblown. For example, I have personally observed drug use by visitors to the canal grounds at off-peak hours or as night falls, and planners should think about how to influence visitor behavior "after hours" in design of the revitalization. A small point but there should also be sufficient, smartly-designed trash receptacles along the canal path to ensure that trash does not end up in the canal or along the towpath, even if inadvertently.

Third, the canal path should be redesigned to enable it to be enjoyed by those with physical limitations, as well

as families with small children needing strollers. As of now, many parts of the towpath are inaccessible by those with physical limitations; this must be addressed.

Finally, as a resident living adjacent to the canal, I would strongly encourage planners to think of ways to limit use of Fish Market Square. Unlike other areas adjacent to the canal, this parcel is uniquely situated as it is immediately surrounded by several residential buildings, including the Papermill, Flour Mill, and Canal House. A revitalized canal should not interfere with its neighbors' quiet use and enjoyment of their homes, but should instead enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of the canal for Georgetown residents and visitors alike.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 40

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Correspondence Text

Diane and I attended the meeting last month and sat at table 11. Very good meeting and discussions. Since then we talked a bit more between ourselves and want to share our reflections.

If the High Line receives 5 million visitors a year, that's on average 13,000 a day. So, assuming that the revitalization of the C&O is even half that, that is basically 7,000 visitors on average a day walking the canal. That seems like a lot especially given that the canal path is narrower in many locations than the high line and then on top of that there are plans for the mules pulling the boat along through various locks. Just reflecting. Those of us who love meandering along there and jogging and biking might just find that what we love about the canal in Georgetown isn't there any more.

Happy to be a part of the discussion and thrilled with what is being planned.

Best,

Steve & Diane

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 41

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Correspondence Text

The Georgetown Business Improvement District developed a general vision for improving the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal in 2013 during the Georgetown 2028 planning process. The resulting Georgetown 2028 Action Agenda included:

1. Launching a multi-stakeholder planning process for the Canal's future, (which has been accomplished);
2. Fundraising for a new canal barge, (which has also been completed);
3. Demonstrating new programs, activities and designs for public feedback;
4. Supplementing and enhancing the NPS Visitor Center to support more activity;
5. Designing educational programs that inform the public about the Canal (which is being done by Georgetown Heritage);
6. Implementing Canal plan and well received demonstration projects (which will be done in conjunction with NPS and Georgetown Heritage).

These action items received broad community support from ANC 2E, the Citizen's Association, the Georgetown Business Association, and Georgetown University.

In addition to these items, the BID has continued to solicit ideas and input from our members, who include commercial property owners and tenants along the canal and throughout Georgetown. Our members want to ensure the Canal is restored to good physical condition so that it is able to hold water and remain beautiful. They support increased recreational activity with things like the proposed boat launch dock for kayaks and canoes at 34th Street. They would like to see improved accessibility so that bikes and people with stroller or in wheelchairs can cross the canal between Wisconsin Avenue and Key Bridge. They support improved safety through the

installation of more, and better, lighting and other improvements to the tow path, bridges, and plazas. They support new educational and interpretive signage and programming. And finally, they would like to see a greater emphasis placed on placemaking for people to use and enjoy the canal from both the NPS land and adjacent properties. This includes balancing the canal's passive spaces with soft and programmed activation (everything from chess tables to concerts) as well as restaurants, bars and commercial spaces that overlook or spill out onto the adjacent NPS property.

The Canal is a unique asset to Washington DC, and to Georgetown. We want to ensure that its history and beauty are preserved and highlighted for visitors, workers, and residents who we hope to attract to Georgetown in the coming years. We also want to make sure that the canal is fully integrated into, and not a wholly separate entity from, the neighborhood in which it is located. As an active commercial mixed-use district, we do not want to see this become a passive monument. Rather it should be a place that is alive with activity while honoring its past as a commercial enterprise that served a bustling town and city.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the NPS, Georgetown Heritage and the District Government to help plan, build, and maintain a rejuvenated C&O Canal in Georgetown.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Correspondence Text

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the scoping phase of the Georgetown Canal Plan, and congratulate the sponsoring partners. Already underway are the restoration of Locks 3 and 4 and plans for construction of a new replica canal boat. These two steps will do much to restore this section of the park to its condition of six years ago. Further practical enhancements such as improved access, safety and maintenance will be broadly welcomed. Beyond that, however, the issue of "reimagining" this mile of beloved parkland deserves caution.

The presentation by James Corner Field Operations showed a sensitive appreciation of the canal's unique qualities; however, its call for development of certain "plazas" raises concern. Please go easy! The identity of this National Historical Park is tied to a 19th Century mode of transportation that persisted into the 20th. The keynote must be continuity rather than transformation.

I hope that enhancements will be done with a light touch and will avoid creating the feel of a programmed experience. For the Tidelock/Milepost 0 area, for example, one or two new signs could help people find the site from K Street. The existing wayside display should be refurbished, and a quick response "QR" code added to it, allowing visitors to receive further interpretation via smart phone. That's about all that's needed, in my opinion.

At the other end of the Georgetown mile is one of the few spots that might benefit from a modest construction project, the area between the towpath and the upper surface of the Alexandria Aqueduct. A viewing platform there could perhaps be combined with fencing, allowing people to enjoy the vista while keeping them off the aqueduct itself. Some of the vegetation at the edge of this area might be replaced with low-growing shrubs that would not obstruct views of the river. Such improvements in this section of the park would have to be combined with an increased effort to control litter and graffiti - quite a challenge, I realize. Finally, it's important to strictly limit the size and height of any boat rental facility that might be established on the shoreline between the

aqueduct and the Washington Canoe Club.

A vibrant canal park will be a long-term asset to the shops, restaurants, and hotels of lower Georgetown; however, I suspect that a numerical increase in visitation won't do much, in itself, to assist these businesses. The park exists between two major attractions, M Street and the Water/K Street shoreline corridor, where overcrowding is already a reality on fair-weather weekends. The canal should continue to offer the respite of a calmer, non-commercial experience.

One objective of the plan is to increase opportunities for cultural and educational programs. Central to this will naturally be the reopened (and perhaps renovated) Visitor Center and rides in the replica boat. The park can also host art exhibits, lectures and other events that do not relate directly to the canal itself. I hope, however, that these activities will be limited in scale - the nearby Georgetown Waterfront Park offers much more space for events for sizable audiences.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely, Ned Preston

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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I am very excited about this project to improve the visibility and show the history of this important city feature. Any improvements that ensure the walkability are a bonus. Care should be taken to allow for runners, bikers and relaxed walkers to compatibly share the paths. Also, I hope that lighting will be thoughtful and considerate. While lighting is an important security consideration, there is much evidence that "over" lighting can disrupt sleep patterns for neighboring properties and uplighting is wasteful and does not contribute to security. Thank you!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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My comments are related to the C&O Canal's links to the spectacular Georgetown Waterfront Park along the Potomac River west of K Street. I would like to urge the National Park Service and Georgetown Heritage to consider ways to incorporate this parkland into its ongoing planning to rehabilitate and make the historic C & O Canal more accessible and enjoyable to visitors. Attractive signage guiding visitors from one place to the other would provide one way to link the two attractions.

The waterfront park would provide visitors with the open spaces and river views that the historic canal cannot because of its narrow footprint. But together, the spacious park and the historic canal, along with Georgetown's upscale business district, could provide visitors and local residents with an unparalleled experience in the nation's capitol city.

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The creation of Georgetown Heritage to facilitate and strategize for the repair of the historic C&O Canal in Georgetown is a welcome development. The canal and towpath are in need of regular maintenance, and the history of the canal is a fundamental part of Georgetown's history that is worth telling.

As the planning proceeds, it is important to recognize that the community around the canal is a densely populated community with hundreds of residential units and more than a thousand residents. It is a thriving community of commercial offices and retail establishments as well, a community that is presently, and historically, congested with cars, buses, pedestrians, bikers, delivery trucks and construction activity. It is important to recognize that a mission of more visitors and more activities needs careful consideration and planning to avoid additional congestion, conflict and potential impingement on residential life with events that are noisy, bring trash and crime. It would be great to see the mule drawn canal boat return and see a focus on family, history and learning.

In walking the High Line in New York recently, I watched a child toss a balloon into an air-conditioning unit of an adjacent apartment. I also noted prominent signs directing visitors not to give money to the homeless - an indication that the crowds have drawn opportunists and others to the neighborhoods. Designs of public seating, location of public restrooms, location of trash receptacles should consider how these facilities will be maintained and how they will impact neighbors and visitors in such a small space. I would discourage paving the towpath or installing overhead lighting that would destroy the character of the canal and towpath.

Most importantly to me, I would like to see the peace and serenity of the canal and towpath preserved as an oasis in the crowded noisy community. With that preservation, I would like to see a thriving natural environment of wildlife - animals, birds, and plants.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Thank you for soliciting comments on the revitalization of the canal. I think there are three important aspects to the canal: 1) Its history, 2) Its use as a public park for relaxation for locals and tourists, and 3) Its use as a commuting and exercising thoroughfare. I think it is critical that the historic aspects are preserved and emphasized, while creating a safe, comfortable space for families and friends to gather and stay a while or zoom through on bikes or running. It would be great to see expanded green space, permeable landscaping and "bump-out" areas for community activities like exercise classes or art installations.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Correspondence Text

I am a longtime DC resident and a regular user of the C&O Canal National Historic Park for running, cycling, and sightseeing. All of us- -residents and visitors alike- -are indebted to Supreme Court Justice William O Douglas for, literally, his trail-blazing efforts to save the canal from being paved as a roadway in the 1950s. Now, sixty years later, this 184-mile sliver of green space is more important than ever in linking the increasingly vibrant Washington, DC area to the surrounding historic landscape beyond.

I have a 20-plus year background in historic preservation and cultural tourism. I support initiatives to make the historic canal resource in the Georgetown neighborhood and beyond more accessible for all residents and visitors while ensuring that all steps are taken to maintain its historic ambience. The image of the canal on the Historic Georgetown website, with water cascading over a lock, and the adjacent towpath and nearby low-scale buildings, is exactly the atmosphere that should be maintained. Similarly, all vestiges of 19th century construction (stone retaining walls, bridges, and access-ways) must be retained. Over the years, the stewards of the Georgetown Historic District- -residents, the National Park Service, and public and private groups- -have done the heavy lifting to make the canal park what it is today. That same kind of attention into the future can preserve both the existing resource while thoughtfully encouraging increased use by all.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Correspondence Text

In assessing plans to revitalize portions of the C&O National Historical Park, the National Park Service must stay true to its mission as the protector of the nation's federal parkland. Regardless of the EA's focused location, the C&O Canal NHP Park is one park, it is not segmented into proprietary sections with one geographic area or neighborhood "owning" it. The interpretation of the history and use of the C&O Canal must be framed by its agricultural and industrial uses - not a recreation area with state of the art entertainment facilities and equipment. It should also not be confused with the Georgetown Waterfront Park, an area of the Potomac River extending between the Washington Harbor Complex and K Street.

The C&O Canal NHP is not unlike other national parks which are maintained as passive recreational areas. At times, NPS has been distracted by partners who bring funding to the table; but, in accepting funding, NPS has too often turned a blind eye to the very fundamentals of its own mission. Exclusivity should not frame the EA findings for the mile-long section of the C&O Canal NHP and is the reason comments from a wider group of users is critical to its outcome.

There was a promise that the Canal Clipper would be restored and put back to use - it is nowhere to be found. The area known as "the mule yard" no longer has a purpose. Yet, these kinds of historic uses of the C&O Canal NHP, interpreted for a new century, once provided a glimpse into the historic character and cultural significance of this very intimate stretch of parkland nestled within the nation's capitol. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, whose home was on Hutchins Place, not far from the mile-long area identified in the May 30 NPS Announcement as the "Georgetown Canal Plan," would no doubt have a great deal to say about any segregation of the park as belonging to "the Georgetown Neighborhood," a well known tourist destination. His heroic actions saved the C&O Canal from becoming a cement ribbon of highway into the city.

To ensure this mile-long stretch of the C&O Canal NHP does not become swallowed up as just another part of Georgetown's entertainment district, balance and sensitivity must be carefully observed and implemented. Whatever new cultural programming is proposed, the potential to completely obscure the park's identity within Georgetown's geographic area exists. The proposed revitalization area must be regarded and reviewed as part of a continuous and contiguous national historical park. Its unique identity and cultural significance must be treated with the utmost respect to ensure neither is diminished. Any additional access points, lighting and signage must reflect the historic character of both the park and surrounding district. The introduction of these additions into the historic areas must be appropriate, unobtrusive and provide a seamless connection between the two areas. Viewsheds of and from the Towpath should not be encumbered or blocked. Current uses should not be restricted or removed to permit the introduction of new interpretive uses which historically have not been in place.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must actually assert itself as the agency with responsibility to identify historic properties, assess adverse effects and develop ways to resolve those effects through appropriate mitigation measures. ACHP has been a very silent partner of late and yet has responsibility for the Section 106 process. The C&O Canal NHP is much more than a historic property - it is a national historical park. The proposed Environmental Assessment also needs to be carefully prepared and comprehensive. Any actual changes to parkland must be necessary and not a reflection of funders' wants and needs. Enhanced visitor experiences and optimized underutilized areas must not end in conflict with the historic park. After all, this is national parkland not a neighborhood park. Its use and enjoyment are intended for the use of all citizens not just those who live and visit the Georgetown neighborhood, itself a historic district. And, the NPS must respect its mission to preserve and protect this nation's national treasures for the present and future enjoyment of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments into the record on potential issues and concerns which need to be considered during the planning/EA process. ANC 3D05, the area of the city I am elected to represent, includes Abner Cloud House, Fletcher's Boathouse and sections of the C&O Canal NHP closer to Chain Bridge. This gateway area is bucolic and scenic, yet is traversed daily by thousands who use Canal Road as their entry to and exit from the city. Let me take this opportunity to note the recent restoration of the historic Canal Road wall between Foxhall Road and Whitehurst Freeway lacks the historic interpretation and level of respect it deserves. The wall itself has been restored, however the rusting guardrail against its face is an eyesore and more problematic in terms of weed protection and trash collection than the previous crumbling wall. Let us hope that the findings identified for the Georgetown Canal Plan will rise to a higher interpretive standard befitting a national historical park.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Correspondence Text

The Georgetown Canal -

I write as a resident of Georgetown for over 25 years, I believe there is value in a brief listing of my involvement in this community over those years. For 10 years I served as president of Friends of Rose Park. Rose Park had become a derelict green space on the east side of Georgetown. With strong neighbor participation, from spreading mulch, to fundraising events for children's play equipment, to instituting a farmers market and much more, today hundreds of people use Rose Park and families buy homes near the park so their children can have a fun 'backyard.' Following that period of time I chaired the Citizens Association of Georgetown's (CAG) Historic Preservation & Zoning Committee and later served as president of CAG. In addition, for more than 10 years each week I walked from my home on the east side to my office at the bottom of Wisconsin Ave. Often along the canal.

The canal should remain a community asset for the residents, a historic stop for visitors to our city and a green space for those who work, play and live in Georgetown.

(It is also important to honor the ideas of the residents who actually live on the canal.)

My hope is that the 'finished product' highlights the history of the canal and those who lived and worked on the canal, as well as the businesses that flourished because of the canal.

A high priority for me is the return of the boat AND the mules.

In years passed, there were informal musical events along the banks. Just an opportunity to sit on the grass or a bench and remove yourself from the hustle of M Street. People ate their lunch along the canal. They took a walk

to shake off a bad afternoon at the office. They painted. They read a book or newspaper. I hope the canal will continue to offer that kind of oasis.

There will be a debate about how to accommodate bikes on the narrow land stripes along the canal. Runners, baby carriages, walkers I believe should take precedence over ridden bikes.

Entertainment and dining venues should be well done and few. Fun special events - fishing contests, kayak parades, hockey games and such would be options to consider.

The canal needs to be maintained, clean, free of rats as much as possible, easy to discover - a refreshing and peaceful place.

I look forward to honing my thoughts as the master plan progresses.

Pamla Moore

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 50

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Correspondence Text

On behalf of the staff of Georgetown Heritage, I respectfully submit the following as Georgetown Heritage's comment to the Georgetown Canal Plan Scoping Phase:

Georgetown Heritage is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to revitalize, activate, and interpret National Park Service assets in Georgetown into inviting, inclusive, and inspiring destinations, with an initial focus on the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Our first priority is to restore and revitalize the mile-long section of the C&O Canal that runs through Georgetown. It is a unique and beloved piece of our Georgetown neighborhood's - and America's - history. It is a gateway into the story of our industrial past, and a place for exercise, recreation, and reflection.

As an official Friends Group of the National Park Service, Georgetown Heritage is organizing our community to raise both public and private resources to restore, enliven, and interpret the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal. Our first step in this process is to develop a comprehensive master plan to guide our efforts.

Georgetown Heritage believes that the Canal Plan should lay the groundwork for a first-rate public park in Georgetown that enhances the quality of life for those who use it, and reflect the following priorities:

1. To respect, celebrate and interpret the Canal's historic character, authenticity, and sense of place. In particular, the Plan should create a roadmap for restoring and stabilizing the Canal's historic elements; highlighting the Canal's scenic, natural and cultural history through design elements and programming; achieving a congruent balance of energetic activity and tranquil respite; and integrating harmoniously into the surrounding neighborhood day and night, respecting the prerogative of those who reside alongside the Canal.

2. To create beautiful, creative, welcoming and inclusive spaces. The Plan should define a blueprint for creating peaceful public spaces for community to gather; provide for programming that attracts and serves diverse audiences; and include amenities to make visitors comfortable and safe.
3. To restore and protect the canal's biodiversity. Specifically, the Plan should establish an improved native ecosystem of plants, animals and natural communities along the Canal, coherent with the surrounding Potomac Gorge ecosystems; ensure that all improvements or changes to the park make positive contributions to the local ecosystem; and provide for the removal of invasive species and use of native plant species. The Plan should seek to utilize natural infrastructure to maximize water quality, minimize runoff, and build the health of local ecosystems.
4. To promote and expand the connectivity of the park to its urban context, to the rest of the C&O Canal NHP, to our regional park system, and to the many communities (neighbors, DC-wide, regional, and national) that use and love the canal. Specifically, the Plan should improve physical access to the Canal and within the Canal; build interpretive linkages with other DC-area landmarks, parks, and historic sites; and the Plan should intentionally engage stakeholders from across the city.
5. To ensure that the park is underpinned by sustainable financial and social investments. The Canal Plan should provide for creative approaches to park funding from public and private sectors; engage the social capital of the DC Community in an active community of volunteer stewardship for the park; and ensure all public and private monies are effectively and efficiently allocated and spent in the creation and maintenance of the park.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

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Correspondence Text

July 14, 2017

Brendan Wilson
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Re: Public Scoping on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Casey Trees is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit, with a mission to restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of the nations capital. To fulfill this mission, we plant trees; monitor the citys tree canopy; and work with local decision-makers, developers, and residents to prioritize trees. We are committed to helping the District achieve its 40 percent tree canopy goal by 2032. Therefore, we appreciate the opportunity to share our vision for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal Park).

Our citys parks provide a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife. Green spaces offer a sense of place and essential life-enhancing qualities that contribute to community and individual well-being. The preservation and restoration of C&O Canal Park is a tremendous opportunity to transform an underused park into a prized community amenity. We want to ensure that the future C&O Canal Park maintains its historic natural landscape and grows tree canopy, so residents can enjoy a shady, tree-lined canal for many generations.

After analyzing the site, we urge the National Park Service to consider the following:

1. Preserve all healthy trees: Preserve the mature trees currently growing in the Aqueduct, Walls, Grove, Locks, and Rock Creek Confluence character zones to complement Georgetown Heritages goal of preserving the canals history (Figure 1).* These mature trees will also continue to provide important ecosystem services before, during, and after restoration.

2. Adopt a 35% tree canopy goal: Plant new trees along the canal to achieve James Corner Field Operations goal to create a garden from end to end. Our analysis shows that there is potential to expand tree canopy to cover approximately 35% of the park by planting trees in underutilized green space (Figure 2).* A more continuous tree canopy will offer numerous environmental benefits for the neighborhood, including stormwater infiltration and flood mitigation.

3. Prevent the spread of invasive plants. Create an invasive plant management plan to remove invasive plants currently growing along the canal, and to prevent the establishment of invasive plants in the future. Once invasive trees and plants have been removed, reforest to achieve a 35% tree canopy.

Adopting these recommendations will contribute to a revitalized waterfront, a more robust habitat for wildlife, and a forested park for District residents of all ages to explore. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at ktaddei@caseytrees.org or 202-349-1892.

Sincerely,

Kristin D. Taddei
Planning Advocate

*Please visit caseytrees.org/take-action/advocate/public-comments to view a PDF of these comments with figures.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 52

Author Information

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Correspondence Information

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Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The C&O Canal Trust looks forward to working with its partner, the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and other partner organizations, as the park's Georgetown section is revitalized. If the Park Service expands its Canal Classrooms program into the District of Columbia, the Canal Trust will have a keen interest in seeing Georgetown as a future site for the initiative. This will provide a great opportunity to share the newly revitalized section of the park not only with children who attend schools in the immediate vicinity, but also with all children throughout the District, especially those from Title 1 schools with a high number of students from low income households.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 53

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Correspondence Information

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Correspondence Text

I am very impressed with the initial outreach from Georgetown Heritage about the restoration of the canal in Georgetown and the exciting ideas proposed. The community workshop was very well organized and I was impressed by the content, attendance and organization. I look forward to seeing future proposals on rehabilitation of public spaces and enlarging the offerings in the canal park areas. I am interested in the possible inclusion of commercial ventures and in how they would blend successfully with the historic and natural areas of Georgetown.

I believe the canal and surrounding areas are an underused and valuable resource and hope that a thoughtful and sensitive rehabilitation project could make the canal a space where many more residents and visitors could enjoy its unique qualities.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 54

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Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 14, 2017 Date Received: Jul 14, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
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Correspondence Text

I love this idea and encourage the developers to think sustainable while implementing choice comfortable and well designed spaces to draw people in and keeping people around the Canal.
I would love to see some sort of sustainable feature, whether it be energy produced by turbines from the outflow of water or a combination of aquatic life that helps keep the Potomac clean.
I also encourage the developers to implement as much installation art that balances historic tributes to contemporary art. This would be well to satisfy many of the opposing citizens in GT.

Best of luck and i look forward to having the canal be my new destination spot!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 55

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Date Sent: Jul 14, 2017	Date Received: Jul 14, 2017
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Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
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Correspondence Text

Hello. I'm James and I have a concept that is perfect for the canal.

This proposal brings a "Missouri Trout Park" to Georgetown.

There's some technology and planning involved but I've had an "Urban Trout" design for many years hence I've figured out how to accomplish all.

Research "Missouri Trout Parks" and if you like what you find then contact me through Miriam's and we'll get to work.

Note that I'll need a Georgetown efficiency for \$350/mo to work on this project. Thanks!

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 56

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Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
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Correspondence Text

The canal has always been a place of tranquil gatherings surrounded by history. Any improvements should seek to enhance that. Just yesterday I saw a group of 15 bikers on the narrow path speeding through making it very hard and unsafe for walkers to pass. Enhance the canal's heritage, but don't turn it into an amusement park.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 57

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Date Sent: Jul 14, 2017	Date Received: Jul 14, 2017
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Correspondence Text

I hope this project preserves the peaceful and natural character of the canal. Uneven surfaces and dim areas should not be replaced by hard pavement and wasteful use of light. Light fixtures should not send light upwards where it serves no purpose and adds to light pollution. Similarly, I hope that the new signage will fit in with the scenery. My favorite part of the canal is the feeling of escape from the city and I hope that this project maintains that feeling.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 58

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Correspondence Text

It is not necessary to build a visitor's center in Georgetown for the C&O Canal. Please emphasize our greenery and use the money you have available not for more construction but for maintenance of greenery. No need for an additional building to house a visitor's center. In spots overlooking the rebuilt canal that lend themselves to contemplation, we need benches with backs and dividers (dividers so people do not sleep overnight on the benches)that provide a venue for quiet thought.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 59

Author Information

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Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
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Correspondence Text

Thank you for the opportunity to go on record and offer comments to the Public Scoping Announcement on the Georgetown Canal Plan. My interest is as a lifelong user of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, a former volunteer for the C&O Canal Trust, and as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in the District of Columbia. The district I am elected to represent, ANC 3D04, includes just over a mile-long stretch of the Park and Chain Bridge. I and many of my neighbors are eager to see restoration of the Park in Georgetown, and hopefully beyond. I wish to keep an open mind about specific proposals for the site as they are revealed in the future. As the National Park Service and its partners work toward this in the environmental assessment and Section 106 stages of the process, however, I write here to express what I feel should be the project's broad priorities.

Preserving the character of the Park's "historical" designation should take precedence over other planning and design considerations.

The C&O Canal is a National Historical Park, denoting the establishment of a new use for a site in the context of its historic one, (in this case, the creation of a park for mainly passive recreational use around a 19th century agricultural-industrial use canal). In many ways, the Canal is a model NHP due to the mingling of its many historic structures, (accounting for a significant portion of those across all national parks), most importantly the Canal itself, with the natural surroundings.

This heritage is largely dependent on NPS exercising its duty to protect the area, and not being too swayed by plans that may seem attractive, yet threaten to undermine the Park's historical character. For example, in presentations to the community and in press comments, advocates for the revitalization project derive inspiration

from sites having little to do in character with a National Historical Park. One of these, New York's High Line, barely alludes to its site's past, while high-end residences, shops, and eateries have overtaken the former industrial feel along another, London's Regent's Canal. These and the other references now cited for the C&O are out-of-step with the Park's founding and operation.

The Park belongs to the entire country.

The degree to which plans for this project have been conveyed to represent a park for the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC, and its particular aspirations for the site are potentially troubling. As any stretch of the Park, the section through Georgetown - not "Georgetown's section" as advocates call it in their promotional media - is integral to the fabric created by the 185-mile length taken as a whole.

Even with the changes this stretch of the Park has seen over the years, the area effectively conveys the Canal's terminus in an urban setting that once housed nineteenth century industries. In other words, the Park in Georgetown already does a fine job meeting its primary mission, notwithstanding the need for pressing restoration work.

Georgetown Heritage, the driving force in support of the Canal Plan, takes this a step further, though, calling, on its web site, for, "transformative designs for some of the under-used spaces along the canal." It is vital for NPS to contain overenthusiastic calls for such "transformations," ensuring that potential uses are not mere extensions of the commerce and entertainments already found in close proximity to the Canal. The creation of permanent retail and performing arts space, out-of-scale play equipment, lighting and seating in cutting-edge designs, and even over-reliance on integrated landscaping - all very nice things on their own-might unduly interrupt the flow of the NHP, the safeguarding of which, again, should be top priority.

It is also worth noting that advocates publicly aspire to using the Canal as the centerpiece of a broad renewal project targeting other NPS assets located in Georgetown. Just, however, as the section of the Canal under consideration must be treated as one with the rest of the NHP, it should not be overly contextualized with Georgetown via other changes to nearby parks. These should not be seen as "belonging" to Georgetown or any other neighborhood.

A sound approach to revitalizing the park treats all attempts to substantially transform it equally.

Gilding plans with promises of a modern "urban oasis," that will bring visitors and "vitality" to the park, no matter how popular or lucrative they seem, are, at their core, transformations that potentially threaten the park's essence. Unthinkable as it may be to 2017 sensibilities, the plan to construct a roadway on the Canal once enjoyed its share of popular support and was well-intentioned as a public good. No matter how benign or beloved other projects promise to be, they inherently share attributes that could prove sadly disruptive to this cherished site. The establishment of the National Historic Park is the only change that could ever have been contemplated to the Canal that would preserve it primarily as a window into the past. Our country is better off for that outcome.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 60

Author Information

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Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jul 5, 2017 Date Received: Jul 7, 2017
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Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent,

As a resident of The Flour Mill Condominium at 1015 33rd Street NW, I am intrigued, excited as well as concerned over what is to come with the upcoming rejuvenation of the C&O Canal. It has a unique presence in this city and is rich in history and natural beauty and given its current condition, it certainly needs to be cared for. Having attended several public meetings regarding this project, I am intrigued and excited with some of the restoration plans that have been suggested, but I am also concerned with what seems to be an attempt thru this restoration to bring more people into an already busy neighborhood.

If I were to list the number one topic that our residents seem to agree on, it would be the concern over a potential increase in foot and vehicular traffic to the neighborhood and all that comes with it. We certainly recognize that we live along a busy section of the canal and certainly don't begrudge visitors who come to experience all that the canal and river have to offer, but unfortunately, with those visitors comes noise, trash, and congestion on sidewalks and roads. Because of the positioning of our building, we have exposure on three sides...the front entrance on 33rd Street, the side of the building that abuts the canal and the side that faces Fish Market Square. Each of those locations has a history of disturbances and unnecessary noise, and adding additional people to the mix would only increase that.

I keep hearing the term "underutilized" mentioned whenever Fish Market Square is brought up and quite frankly, that worries many of us at Flour Mill a lot. The plaza side of the building has a big problem with the public/private mix, especially in the evenings and on weekends. Using the plaza as a skateboard venue is a major problem and we would love to see a design that eliminates that. A design that better defines what the public areas

are as opposed to the private spaces would be welcomed. Trees, plants, fountains and perhaps having a large sculpture (something along the line what one sees in cities like Chicago) are welcome while late night loitering is not. The ability for someone to sit and quietly eat their lunch or have an early evening snack after shopping is welcome but party venues or food trucks are not. We don't want a playground. We don't wish to see anything that

would attract drunk college students coming home from the bars late at night, something we currently have to deal with every year. There are a lot of hard surfaces in that area and coming up with a plan that would help with the acoustics would be welcomed. I realize all of this sounds like one big contradiction...improve the towpath, plant trees, plant flowers, provide shade. etc., but don't attract too many people. A design challenge indeed!

On a more positive note, perhaps one way to add a "wow" factor to the entire project would be with imaginative lighting. Putting in lighting instruments that could bathe the dramatic stone walls, putting lighting under the bridges, lighting that highlights the vegetation, underwater lighting (as long as it wasn't a problem for fish, turtles, etc.), perhaps a light sculpture that could be a landmark for a certain part of the 1-mile route. One wouldn't want it to look like a carnival, but there must be hundreds of ways it could be done tastefully. LED lights would make it efficient and placement would be important, not only for the effect one was after but to keep vandalism to a minimum, as the individual instruments would most likely be a target.

Lighting has aesthetic benefits of course but it also plays an important part in keeping the area safe. While I've indicated that we are not looking for hordes of people marching about at night, there are times of the year when the days are much shorter and we can have darkness by 5pm. Folks coming home from work or simply shopping or going to restaurants would appreciate being able to see where they are going. Frankly a greater police presence dedicated to monitoring the canal area would be good, but I realize budget constraints would probably make that impossible. If that is not realistic, a comprehensive system of high quality video cameras should be a must and some central command post to monitor them. And while on the subject of safety, I feel strongly that there is a relationship between the canal and the riverfront park and the major traffic problems on K/Water Street.

Even now, we experience a lot of visitors walking between M Street and the river park. It is assumed that the flow will increase once the canal project is done and that means more traffic on K/Water street as visitors, either as pedestrians or passengers in cars wander around looking to park or get to the river.

With any big public project involving years of planning and construction, and costing millions of dollars, there comes a time after the opening celebrations when day-to-day reality sets in. This leads to the question of maintaining what is sure to be a wonderful revitalized canal. I feel strongly that the canal should have a proper budget for this aspect of the project. Currently, the western portion of the canal is a major mess. It's unsafe and the graffiti is totally out of control with tagging all over the beautiful stonework and it's now even appearing on the sidewalks. To make matters worse, the vandalism has crept further east. I would imagine that if there is a private fundraising component to the project, donors would not be very pleased if they discovered that after donating a large amount of money to refresh the canal, the canal had slipped back into its former state of disrepair. Having plenty of rodent proof trashcans must certainly be on a list of improvement all along the canal and having a service to come by and empty them is just as important. Georgetown BID

does a wonderful job with their great team of blue uniformed workers who are constantly picking up trash and sweeping the streets? The riverfront park has its own team who are always out there working on the landscape or removing trash. The canal should have the same kind of well managed service.

Frankly, a lot of my concerns over large numbers of people in the neighborhood would go away if those people showed more respect for the neighborhood. In the over 25 years I have lived here, I am amazed, saddened and

angered with the actions of some people who come to visit the canal and riverfront park and it has become worse over time. Children tearing off large limbs of young trees with the parents standing right there and saying nothingpeople walking thru flowerbeds when there is a sidewalk less than 2 feet away.....people setting up a professional tightrope between two young trees and then practically breaking them in half when using the rope...people throwing large items into the canal...people trying to pry stones out of the walls along the towpath ...graffiti on everything...screaming and hollering right under bedroom windows late at night, and on and on. Is it any wonder why many of the residents along the canal are concerned with even more people coming in?

I understand that the planning for all this is in early stages. We at The Flour Mill have had the pleasure of meeting with Alison Greenberg and Carol Truppi of Georgetown Heritage and various US Park Service reps over the past month and we appreciate the opportunity to put forth our thoughts on what we'd like to see and not see done. If we seem overly critical it's because we are not some casual once a year visitor, but live every day and night right on the doorstep of this project and very much care what happens to this unique treasure. We look forward to seeing the first plans.

Sincerely,

Peter Stafford

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 61

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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 9, 2017 Date Received: Jun 9, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Brendan,
The protection of our tribal cultural resources and tribal trust resources will take all of us working together.
We look forward to working with you and your agency.
With the information you have submitted we can concur at present with this proposed plan.

As with any new project, we never know what may come to light until work begins.
The Delaware Nation asks that you keep us up to date on the progress of this project and
if any discoveries arise please contact us immediately.

If you need anything additional from me please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please update your files to reflect my contact information below.

Thanks,
Kim

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 62

Author Information

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Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Jun 30, 2017 Date Received: Jun 30, 2017
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
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Notes:

Correspondence Text

DC Dear Mr. Brandt:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responding to the request for scoping recommendations for the Environmental Assessment (EA) planned by the National Park Service (NPS) for the Georgetown Canal Plan.

The planned EA would identify alternatives and evaluate potential environmental consequences resulting from the proposed revitalization of portions of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park (C&O Canal NHP). The purpose of the project is to preserve the historic and cultural significance of the C&O Canal, enhance visitor experience, and improve educational opportunities at the site. The need of the project is stated in the scoping letter to address deferred maintenance, safety, and accessibility issues with the C&O towpath, improve connectivity between Georgetown and the towpath, and improve educational signage. The EA will ensure that these issues are resolved in a way that preserves the historic character of both the C&O Canal NHP and the Georgetown Historic District. Please find recommendations in the enclosed Technical Comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for this project. Please feel free to coordinate with EPA during development of the NEPA study. EPA looks forward to receiving the EA and other future analysis done in compliance with NEPA. If you have questions, the contact for this project is Nora Theodore; she can be reached at 215-814-2728 or theodore.nora@epa.gov.

Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader

Office of Environmental Programs

Technical Comments Georgetown Canal Plan

Purpose and Need

Since the range of alternatives evaluated is defined by the purpose and need for the project, it is important that the purpose and need be clearly identified in the EA. The purpose or objective of the proposal should be defined in relationship to the need for the action. Therefore, the need for the action should identify and describe the underlying problem or deficiency; facts and analyses supporting the problem or deficiency in the particular location at the particular time should be specified; and the context or perspective of the agency mission in relation to the need for action should be stated.

Alternatives Analysis

The alternatives analysis is central to the EA and it is important to provide it in the public document. As described in the regulations for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR §1502.14), the examination and comparison of the alternatives under consideration is the heart of the environmental document. It is through this comparison that the lead agency is able to incorporate agency and public input to make informed decisions with regard to the merits of the project and the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives being studied. Consequently, the CEQ regulations require that the details of each alternative, including the "no action" alternative be clearly presented in a comparative form for easy analysis by the reader. It is recommended that the "no action" include the baseline impacts on natural and cultural resources of the existing trail system, and these impacts be considered in comparison to the proposed action. The rationale for the selection of the preferred alternative should be clearly stated in the analysis. For those alternatives that are eliminated from consideration, the reasons for their elimination should be given.

Land Use

The project area should be described, specifying the type and acreage of land impacted as well as a description of the existing buildings on the site including their current and past use. Please discuss any permits required before commencement of the project. In addition to NEPA, other laws, regulations, permits, licenses and Executive Orders (EO) may be applicable to the Proposed Action. A summary of applicable regulatory requirements and approvals with which the Proposed Action will demonstrate compliance should be discussed in the EA.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EA should examine the potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the environment. In addition, mitigation measures for any adverse environmental impacts should be described.

To assist in exploring resource impacts for sites, the NEPA reviewer is referred to EPA's NEPAAssist tool at <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>. (NEPAAssist is a tool that facilitates the environmental review process and project planning in relation to environmental considerations. The

web-based application draws environmental data dynamically from EPA Geographic Information System

databases and web services and provides immediate screening of environmental assessment indicators for a user-defined area of interest. These features contribute to a streamlined review process that potentially raises important environmental issues at the earlier stages of project development.) EPA's Environfacts tool at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/> may also be of use to NPS. (Environfacts is a comprehensive source for Environmental Information). Areas for individual attention are described below.

Water Resources

All water quality issues including surface water, groundwater, drinking water, stormwater management, wastewater management, wetlands and watersheds should be addressed. Any existing and/or ongoing impact to water resources that have resulted from the current trail network that may occur as a result of the updated trail should also be identified and explained. NEPAassist can also be used to identify if there are any impaired waters located near the site.

Groundwater: The principal aquifers in the region should be identified and described. All wells, both public and private, that could potentially be affected by the project must be identified. Areas of groundwater recharge in the vicinity should also be identified and any potential impacts from the proposed action examined.

Surface Water Resources: The EA should outline measures to protect surface waters. The aquatic ecosystem should be evaluated carefully and include a detailed discussion of runoff, sediment and erosion control measures. Such mitigation measures must address both short term construction impacts and long term project impacts.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Chesapeake Bay EO 13508, Protecting and Restoring a National Treasure, tasked a team of federal agencies to draft a way forward for protection and restoration of the Chesapeake watershed. This team, the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay, developed the Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This strategy sets out clear and aggressive goals, outcomes, and objectives to be accomplished through 2025 by the federal government, working closely with state, local, and nongovernmental partners, to protect and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The strategy deepens the federal commitment to the Chesapeake region, with agencies dedicating unprecedented resources, targeting actions where they can have the most impact, ensuring that federal lands and facilities lead by example in environmental stewardship and taking a comprehensive, ecosystem-wide approach to restoration. We recommend NPS discuss in the EA the project's impact or relation to the goals of the EO.

Wetlands: Wetlands present on, or immediately surrounding the site should be delineated according to the 1987 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands. Impacts to wetlands should be avoided or minimized whenever possible. The total size of the wetlands should be provided, in addition to the size of the wetland in the study area and size of the direct impact. The EA should analyze the size and functional values of all impacted wetlands and develop a mitigation plan for their replacement. Even if wetlands are not present on the site, please provide information for any nearby resource.

Stormwater Management/Low Impact Development (LID): Stormwater runoff in urban and developing areas is one of the leading sources of water pollution in the United States. In recognition of this issue, Congress enacted Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to require federal agencies to reduce stormwater runoff from federal development projects to protect water resources. EPA published Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Runoff Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the

Energy Independence and Security Act. It is recommended that trail design incorporate features to minimize runoff and consider potential retrofit for any areas that would benefit from LID.

Terrestrial Resources

The EA should provide a description of the terrestrial habitat resources in the study area. Complete species lists for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plants present in the study area are recommended. The composition and characteristics of each community type should be summarized and the functions and total acreage indicated.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Socioeconomics

Discussion of the socioeconomic and cultural status of the area, including the number of people, employees and/or jobs impacted as a result of the proposed project, even if these impacts may be minor, is useful to the EA analysis. The EA should address the decrease or increase of people/employees/jobs in relation to its effect on tax base, local housing, job markets, schools, utilities, businesses, etc.

Traffic and Transportation

The EA should address traffic and transportation as it relates to the Proposed Action. It may be necessary to provide an evaluation of existing roads specifying existing levels of service at major intersections near the project area as well as accident data. The EA should discuss existing and proposed public transportation to the area and provide estimates of expected usage. Increased demand on parking should also be considered.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs each federal agency to incorporate environmental justice into its mission and activities by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations" The EO also explicitly called for the application of equal consideration for Native American programs. The EA should identify Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in the study area and discuss potential impacts that the Proposed Action may have on these communities.

To assist in this effort, EPA has developed a new EJ mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. It can be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

Additionally, please consider referring to "Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews": <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/ej-iwg-promising-practices-ej-methodologies-nepa-reviews>.

Children's Health

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, requires each federal agency to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks to children. "Environmental health and safety risks" are defined as "risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the

child is likely to come in contact with or ingest." When conducting assessments of environmental risks, the lead agency should consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards. Please identify/discuss children in the study area and potential impacts that may result from the Proposed Action.

Cultural Resources

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended through 2006, directs federal agencies to integrate historic preservation into all activities which either directly or indirectly involve land use decisions. This is to ensure federal leadership in the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources of the United States. Cooperation with the District of Columbia Office of Planning, Georgetown BID, Georgetown Heritage, DC SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, throughout the process is encouraged.

Distribution List

An EA should include a Distribution List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the document were sent as indicated in 40 CFR §1502.10 under "Recommended format" and §1502.19. A Distribution List identifies those parties who have been given the opportunity to comment and reveals that those not included on the list may need to be given the EA for review. This information is useful to show that parties are given the opportunity to review and provide input to the impacts of the proposed action.

PEPC Project ID: 70176, DocumentID: 80796

Correspondence: 63

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Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
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Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Mr. Brandt:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Georgetown Canal Plan. The proposed Georgetown Canal Plan proposes enhancements to a mile-long segment of the Canal that passes between Lock One (approximately 28111 Street, NW) and the Aqueduct Bridge abutment and pier ruins (approximately 36111 Street, NW) as well as a non-contiguous parcel located at the outlet of Rock Creek to the Potomac River, known as the Tide Lock.

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) staff is very supportive of the purpose of the project, which the National Park Service (NPS) states is to: develop a plan to enhance the one mile portion of the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal National Historic Park (NHP) in Georgetown, from the zero-mile marker to the Alexandria Aqueduct. The plan will focus on addressing deferred maintenance issues and related safety and accessibility concerns associated with the towpath; improving connections between Georgetown and the C&O Canal towpath; enhancing visitor experience through increased signage and optimizing underutilized area. The plan will be developed in a matter that addresses the identified needs, while also preserving the historic character and cultural significance of the C&O Canal NHP and the Georgetown Historic District (DC Landmark, National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmark).

The Plan is needed to provide a coordinated approach to address the following concerns:

- Portions of the towpath are uneven, narrow, and poorly lit, creating potential safety hazards;

- Visitors with limited mobility can only access the towpath from Grace Street, NW (south of the canal). All other access points are not compliant with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS);
 - Many access points to the towpath are not readily visible or unknown due to lack of signage;
 - The park desires to expand opportunities for interpretation, education, and cultural programming;
- The park has limited amenities and facilities for visitor comfort such as seating, drinking fountains, and restrooms; and
 - Several plazas along the canal are underutilized and could be developed to provide additional recreational activities.

In anticipation of NCPC' s review of the project, we request that the EA assess the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on the following topic areas:

Historic and Cultural Resources

Given the project's location within the C&O Canal NHP, Georgetown Historic District, and adjacent to Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District, the EA should evaluate potential impacts to the historic and cultural resources of the area. NCPC requests that the following topics be analyzed in the EA: Cultural landscape elements including the C&O Canal NHP and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District and any adjacent landscape that may be impacted . Encourage NPS to consult with the National Register Division to identify cultural landscapes and archeological sites and resources (listed and identified).

Visual Resources

Because of the potential impacts to historic and cultural resources, NCPC requests that the following viewshed impacts be evaluated in the EA:

Lighting impacts on the Canal and surrounding areas and neighborhoods.

Views to and from the Canal, Alexandria Aqueduct, the zero mile-marker, and adjacent trails including the Capital Crescent Trail and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Trails.

Views from surrounding areas and structures such as the Key Bridge, the Georgetown Market, the West Heating Plant, the Watergate Complex, and the Kennedy Center.

Any potential impacts on the views and vistas from other federally owned land such as Theodore Roosevelt Island, Georgetown Waterfront Park, and George Washington Memorial Parkway.

As well as adjacent residential neighborhoods, and these streets (including bridges over the Canal): Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway; Wisconsin Avenue, NW; Thomas Jefferson Street, NW; Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; 33rd Street, NW; 3151 Street, NW; 30111 Street, NW; and 29111 Street, NW.

Any new viewing or vantage points proposed in the Plan or design process.

Natural Resources and Sustainability

NCPC requests that the following topics be analyzed in the EA:

Stormwater management, including federal and local requirements such as Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) and the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) stormwater management regulations.

Vegetation and tree canopy cover.

Water quality (including nutrients, sediments, and bacteria) impacts on the Potomac River watershed and floodplains.

Climate preparedness and adaptation.

Wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Topography changes and soil impacts.

Utility infrastructure, including water supply; wastewater treatment; combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls; and energy requirements.

The integration of pollinator friendly species into the landscape palette consistent with the June 2014 Presidential Memorandum - Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.

NCPC supports the District of Columbia government's goal of increasing the city's tree canopy. Therefore, we recommend the EA evaluate the existing tree canopy and ways to maximize the tree canopy in the future. The Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital recommends a minimum replacement of trees at a one to one ratio; however, given the District of Columbia's goal and federal sustainability goals, we recommend that NPS replace trees at a higher ratio. We also recommend the preservation and protection of any healthy mature trees.

We request that NPS evaluate environmental site design to handle stormwater management for the project including potentially using: porous/permeable pavement for walkways and parking area; rainwater harvesting for irrigation use; bioretention, bioswales, and rain gardens.

Transportation Systems and Pedestrian Amenities

NPS should determine the desired capacity at the Canal for pedestrians, bicyclists, and visitors and design the project elements, such as sidewalk and bicycle lane widths, in response. Once capacity is determined, the following transportation impacts and visitor amenities should be evaluated and analyzed in the EA:

Connections and gateways to other recreational trails such as the Capital Crescent Trail; and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Trails.

Existing social trails along and connecting to the Canal.

Trail designation, widths, and surfaces.

Wayfinding, and signage for pedestrian and bicycle orientation to surrounding destinations and local and regional trails including the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Fort Circle Parks Trails.

Safe and visible trail crossings on-grade with roadways or bridges.

Vertical connections (from roads or bridges) to the C&O Canal and towpath. Connections to Georgetown and the Georgetown waterfront.

Multi-modal (bicycle and pedestrian) circulation, modal separations, and access to the site during construction, normal operations, and special/large events.

Bicycle parking locations and Capital Bikeshare locations.

Pedestrian and visitor amenities, such as restrooms, seating, and trash receptacles. Connections from transit including: Metrobus, Circulator, Metro shuttles, and other planned transportation improvements.

Coordinate transportation and pedestrian improvements with other plans and projects (listed below).

Recreational Resources

NCPC requests that the EA examine impacts on existing recreational resources and amenities including:

Connections to the Georgetown waterfront and other visitor destinations. Connections to boat rentals and launch

points for kayaks and canoes.

Access to public parking locations and availability during normal operations and special events.

Other Plans and Projects

NPS should examine and coordinate with other plans and programs such as the Georgetown Nonmotorized Boathouse Zone Development Plan and Environmental Assessment; Georgetown Rosslyn Gondola Feasibility Study; and the Rock Creek Park Multi-Use Trail Rehabilitation project (particularly the Rose Park segment improvements); and the Clean Rivers Project.

Other Topic Areas

In addition, we request that the following topics be analyzed in the EA: Visitor use and experience

Adjacent land uses (existing and proposed)

Soil structure and erosion Air quality

Noise

Wildlife including habitat, populations, threatened or endangered species, and animal damage control

Infrastructure improvement including roads, bridges, trails, and utilities Vegetation (threatened or endangered plants)

Health and safety NCPC Coordination

The proposed project is required to be submitted to NCPC for formal review in accordance with the National Capital Planning Act. These comments have been prepared in accordance with NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act, as the central planning agency for the federal government in the National Capital Region, NCPC has an advisory review authority for the master plan. NCPC will have approval authority for individual projects within the Plan and will rely on the EA. Therefore, NCPC is requesting to be a Cooperating Agency to fulfill its independent NEPA responsibility. NCPC will also have a Section 106 responsibility for individual projects within the plan and therefore requests to be a signatory to the Programmatic Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement should the project result in adverse effects on historic properties.

Please see our website at www.ncpc.gov for the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and for our submission policies and requirements. We look forward to working with you on this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments or our submission requirements, please contact Meghan Spigle at (202) 482-7245 or meghan.spigle@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,

Diane Sullivan

Director, Urban Design and Plan Review

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APPENDIX B: Public Meeting Sign-in Sheets

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APPENDIX C: Agency Meeting Minutes

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APPENDIX D: Stakeholder Meeting Minutes